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CONFIDENTIAL.

# Telegraphic Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

## AUGUST 24, 1876, TO MARCH 31, 1877.

### No. 1.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 24, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 24, 1876, 10 P.M.

REPRESENTATIVES (of the?) six Guaranteeing Powers met this evening by invitation at the Palace, when Prince Milan, in the presence of his Foreign Minister, asked them to transmit to their respective Governments applying for their good offices for re-establishing peace between Porte and Servia, and to obtain with that view prompt cessation of hostilities. His Highness added it would be desirable to include Montenegro likewise in this pacification.

### No. 2.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received August* 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 25, 1876.

SERVIAN request for good offices of the Powers forwarded to Count Andrassy, from whom an answer is expected to-morrow. In reply to an inquiry from Austrian Agent, Prince Milan appears to have stated that he was not formally authorized by Prince of Montenegro to act for him, but that His Highness had approved of intended appeal to the Powers, and has expressed his readiness to participate in a negotiation for peace.

I have said to Baron Hofmann that, without being able to speak positively on the subject, I believed that though the Porte would be willing to negotiate a peace, it might object to an armistice.

### No. 3.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received August* 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 25, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me this morning that he had just received a telegram from Belgrade announcing that last evening, with unanimous assent of all the Cabinet, Prince Milan had asked the good offices of the Powers to obtain armistice.

Prince Gortchakow had instructed Russian Representatives at Great Courts to support this application, and had further instructed Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support any similar proposal made to the Porte by the Powers.

His Highness observed that an armistice will, of course, include Montenegro and the insurgent provinces.

* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 4.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction your telegram of the 24th. I will at once communicate with the other Powers, with a view to obtain an armistice.

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No. 5.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1876, 8 P.M.

IN reference to Mr. White's telegram of the 24th, Her Majesty's Government are ready to join in applying to the Porte for suspension of hostilities. Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and ascertain what view they take.

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No. 6.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1876, 8 P.M.

I SEND copy of a telegram which I have addressed to Mr. White, and of another which I have sent to the Embassies.†

You will point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace. If hostilities continue, interference of some of the Powers seems probable, and the consequences might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

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No. 7.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August* 26, 1876.

I HAVE communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your telegram of last night.

He thinks that no time should be lost, and says that he shall telegraph immediately to the French Ambassador at Constantinople, to come to an understanding with his five colleagues, in order to apply to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

He has received a telegram from the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, stating instructions in this sense have already been sent to Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

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No. 8.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 26, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me, in reply to communication made by your Lordship's order that the Italian Government is ready to join the Guaranteeing Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

His Excellency declined to make any suggestion as to saying that he should be ready to accept (terms?) agreed upon by the Powers. He insists upon *status quo* as the base of arrangement.

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* A similar telegram was sent to Berlin, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Vienna.
† Nos. 4 and 5.



No. 9.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 26, 1876.

HERR VON BULOW says he must take His Majesty's orders before giving a reply to your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday. He, personally, feels confident that the Emperor's desire for peace will prompt His Majesty to join Powers in applying to the Porte for a cessation of hostilities.

His Excellency will furnish me with a definite reply on Monday.

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No. 10.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 26, 1876.

THE substance of your Lordship's telegram acceding to the request of Servia will be forwarded immediately to the Emperor and Count Andrassy. Baron Hofmann, who has not yet received any communication from his Excellency on the subject, believes that he must have telegraphed direct to Belgrade and Constantinople. He will return to Vienna in a couple of days, but will leave again on the 29th to attend manœuvres.

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No. 11.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August* 27, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 27, 1876, 3 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to Baron Hofmann the substance of the answers which were received yesterday to your Lordship's telegrams of the 25th instant, from Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and Rome; and as his Excellency is still without any answer from Count Andrassy, I have requested him to express to his Excellency my surprise that he should have paid so little attention to an important communication made to him on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and that, though I trust he has instructed Count Beust to answer your Lordship's inquiry, it was due to Her Majesty's Ambassador to inform him that he had done so.

Baron Hofmann spoke of an interruption of the telegraphic communication with Hungary, but he evidently merely wished to find some excuse for what he felt to be, to say the least of it, great carelessness on the part of his superior.

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No. 12.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to the Porte your telegram announcing the request of Prince Milan for the mediation of the Powers, and also the earnest warning of Her Majesty's Government against the danger of losing the opportunity of making peace.

I did not see Grand Vizier, but both Minister for Foreign Affairs and Midhat Pasha see necessity of being guided by the advice of Her Majesty's Government.

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No. 13.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 26, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

I HAVE informed Russian Government, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, that Her Majesty's Government are ready to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities. Prince Gortchakow has instructed Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support any such application.

With reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of yesterday, I think it right to inform your Lordship that, should the Porte object to an armistice, which I cannot believe possible, if proposed by collective Europe, I fear that the popular excitement in this country will force the Emperor to support actively Servian cause. The feeling for the Servians is intensified by the incidents of the late engagement. More than thirty Russian officers have fallen, and it is reported that a Russian ambulance, bearing Red Cross, was fired on, killing five persons belonging to it.

A pacific disposition on the part of the Porte may calm excitement, but the refusal of an armistice will produce exasperation, and I will not answer for the consequences of it.

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No. 14.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 27, 1876, 1 P.M.

IT is essential that the Representatives should be informed as soon as possible whether, in the proposed suspension of hostilities, it is intended to include those with Montenegro as well as those with Servia, and they should be put in a position to answer the inquiry of the Porte whether our Governments are authorized by the Prince of Montenegro to treat in his name.

It appears little probable that Russia will join in a mediation for peace with Servia alone, which would leave Montenegro exposed to the undivided strength of Turkey, and I am told confidentially that an intimation to this effect has been made by her to some other Governments, who might, in that case, also abstain.

Montenegrins have completely evacuated the Herzegovina, so that the difficulty which their occupation would have caused a short time ago no longer exists.

The *status quo ante*, as regards both Principalities, would be probably accepted by the Porte, but immense difficulty must be expected if new concessions to either are demanded.

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No. 15.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, August* 28, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Emperor is highly pleased at the prospect of a cessation of hostilities, but the German Government can express no

* Repeated to the Queen and the Embassies.



opinion as to the course to be pursued before knowing the steps the other Powers suggest taking.

The answer of the German Government will be the result of an understanding with Russia and Austria.

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No. 16.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 28, 1876, 10·15 P.M.

I JUDGE from Safvet Pasha's language to-day that the Porte's acceptation of mediation may be counted upon, but no decision will be come to till Council on Wednesday.

His Excellency says that he hopes any communication to be made to the Porte may be made by the Representatives individually, and not by a collective note.

He spoke also of the Porte requiring material guarantees against a renewal of attack by the Principalities.

The right of keeping garrisons is, I suppose, what is meant, for he would not, or could not explain, but if the condition is asked for it will probably not be insisted upon.

I should have strongly urged that the *status quo ante* would be sufficient, but bearing in mind Count Andrassy's opinion that this might encourage Servia to put forward pretensions, I have hesitated to press it.

All my colleagues, except German Ambassador, have spoken to the Porte, although in general terms, in favour of acceptance of mediation.

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No. 17.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 28, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 28, 1876, 10 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that Prince Gortchakow had said to him that the suspension of hostilities should include Montenegro and the Herzegovina, and he hoped that the Porte would not make difficulties about the proposition which the Great Powers, together with Russia, were about to make at Constantinople.

Prince Gortchakow added that he has warned the Ambassadors not to force him to take up the pen, but if his Sovereign ordered him to do so astonishing things would come out, for although the Russian Government had hitherto put itself in opposition to public opinion of the country, and had abstained from mixing in what was passing, that state of things must have an end.

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No. 18.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 28, 1 [illegible] C.

COUNT ANDRASSY will (return ?) to-morrow evening, and Baron Hofmann will endeavour to arrange for my seeing his Excellency on Wednesday.

He has instructed Count Zichy to ascertain on what basis the Porte would negotiate a peace, and to communicate with his colleagues on the subject; but he considers, after the ambiguous explanations of Prince Milan, that a formal request from the Prince of Montenegro, for the good offices of the Powers, must be received before an official offer of mediation can be made to the Porte.

As his Excellency's stay here may be short, it might be expedient to acquaint me to-morrow, by telegraph, with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this point, and with any other observations which your Lordship may wish to make to his Excellency on the various bearings of the question; and any others on possible eventuality of the Porte making their assent to an armistice with Montenegro dependent on Prince withdrawing his troops from Herzegovina.

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* Repeated to Embassies

No. 19.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

IT is very desirable that Montenegro should be included in the armistice. I believe the Prince is willing to treat, but he has not said so officially. I am endeavouring to ascertain.

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No. 20.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876, 4·24 P.M.

WE do not know officially that the Prince of Montenegro is willing to treat. The Porte will ask whether he authorizes negotiations on his behalf. Will the Russian Government advise him to do so ?

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No. 21.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August* 28, 1876.

DUC DECAZES has received a telegram, dated yesterday afternoon, from the French Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that neither he nor any of his colleagues have been informed by their Governments whether the suspension of hostilities for which they are directed to ask the Porte should apply to Montenegro as well as to Servia.

Duc Decazes is himself decidedly of opinion that it should apply to both, but he is anxious to know your Lordship's opinion as soon as possible.

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No. 22.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876, 4·35 P.M.

IN answer to your telegram of to-day, it would certainly be desirable that Montenegro should be included in the armistice. But we must first ascertain positively that the Prince is willing to treat. We do not know this, though it seems probable.

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No. 22 A.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 28, 1876, 7 P.M.

SIR H. ELLIOT having wished to know feeling here as to the terms of future peace, I have acquainted him that I am assured that any attempt to exercise Turkish right (of) garrison in future would be resisted by all means by Servia, and also not countenanced by the Powers, at all events not by Russia and Austria.

Servia, considering that Turkey failed hitherto in occupying any farther than outskirts of the territory, looks forward to an entire restitution of the *status quo ante.*

Influence of Russian money, and also of numerous officers, exercises considerable influence on the Servian determinations.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 23.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1876, *midnight.*

I THINK it right to mention, for your guidance, that the impression produced here by events in Bulgaria has completely destroyed sympathy with Turkey. The feeling is universal and so strong that, even if Russia were to declare war against the Porte, Her Majesty's Government would find it practically impossible to interfere. Any such event would place England in a most unsatisfactory situation. Peace is, therefore, urgently necessary. Use your discretion as to the language which you shall hold; but you will see how essential it is that the Turkish Ministers should be alive to the situation, and that you cannot be too strong in urging upon the Porte a conciliatory disposition.

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No. 24.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 29, 1876.

M. DE BULOW states that instructions have been sent to German Ambassador at Constantinople to join other Representatives in demands for a cessation of hostilities.

As to steps to be subsequently taken, German Government is not ready at present to express an opinion; but they consider it in the interest of the Porte to take into account antagonistic feeling manifesting itself in Russia, as well as in Germany and other countries, which points to necessity of question being settled on basis of *status quo ante.*

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No. 25.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 29, 1876.

GERMAN Ambassador at Constantinople is directed to support demand for a "general" suspension of hostilities, applying to Montenegro and the insurgent bands, as well as to Servia.

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No. 26.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 29, 1876.

IT being considered impossible that conditions of peace can be decided while there is no responsible Sovereign, Prince Hamid will probably be proclaimed within two days.

Sultan Murad's state has become worse rather than better, and the chance of his recovery being, at any rate very remote, the step about to be taken is as consonant with the law of the Empire as it is necessary for its safety.

I presume that I may congratulate the new Sultan, as usual, when his accession is proclaimed.

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No. 27.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 29, 1876.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told Italian Ambassador on Sunday last that the Servian victory effaced all question of modification of territory, and that the *statu quo*

* Repeated to Embassies.

territory would be preserved. He probably alluded to the understanding with Count Andrassy at Reichstadt.

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No. 28.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 29, 1876.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW leaves to-day with the Emperor for Warsaw and Crimea. Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs gone to take leave of Prince Gortchakow, and therefore not visible. I can, therefore, send no reply, until to-morrow, as to obtaining an official authorization for the Representatives at Constantinople to include Montenegro in the appeal of Prince Milan for a suspension of hostilities.

In the meantime, I may inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow had told Italian Ambassador and myself that he considered that the suspension of hostilities was to be general, including Montenegro and the Herzegovina. I am informed that none of the Powers have yet taken the initiative in drawing up formal application to the Porte for a cessation of hostilities, the Representatives at Constantinople having been only instructed to support a proposal of this nature.

Austria and Germany have not yet signified their assent to the Servian request. This delay may be of grave importance, as, in the meantime, military events may intervene to change, if not nullify, this favourable opening for peace.

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No. 29.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1876, 4 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday, it is essential that Montenegro should join in the negotiations for peace. I have no means of communicating directly with Montenegro, but have suggested that the Russian Government should do so.

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No. 30.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 29, 1876.*

I CONCEIVE that the accession of a new Sultan ought to be taken advantage to bring about peace, and I have said to Minister for Foreign Affairs that his first act should be to issue a Proclamation declaring his intention to restore tranquillity, to promise amnesty and oblivion of all that has passed to those who had been or were still in arms, whether Servians, Herzegovinians, or Bulgarians, and to engage that their grievances should be redressed.

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No. 31.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 30, 1876, 4 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has addressed urgent advice to Prince of Montenegro to join in the appeal of Prince Milan for an armistice.

His Highness thinks that for the moment an armistice alone can be negotiated, as the conditions for peace can only be fixed after an understanding between the six Powers.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 32.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August 30, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs telegraphed yesterday evening to Italian Minister at Constantinople to address an official request to the Porte for armistice, in conjunction with his colleagues, or individually, if concert were unattainable. His Excellency believes that all the Representatives have now instructions which agree with one another, and he is impatient of delay, which he greatly fears may give time for public opinion in Russia to prevail over the pacific policy of the Government.

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No. 33.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 30, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador communicated to-day to Count Andrassy proposal from his Government that the Representatives at Constantinople should address a collective note to the Porte proposing a suspension of hostilities, and that the terms of peace should be discussed afterwards.

Count Andrassy has replied that he has already sent instructions to Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, but entirely declines to entertain idea of a collective note. He considers that the end desired will be best attained by the Powers pursuing the same course, but acting independently of each other.

He also strongly deprecated the idea of a Congress or a Conference.

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No. 34.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 30, 1876.*

I HAVE just had an interview with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have used every argument in favour of acceptance of proposal.

They will, I think, ultimately accept, and they will certainly do so at once if the proposal is to mediate for a peace instead of for an armistice, which is considered very unfavourable to Turkey.

They say Grand Council would have to be assembled to deliberate on the proposal, and that until the question about the Sultan is settled nothing can be decided on a matter of such vital interest.

I expect that this change will be proclaimed to-morrow, as the Ministers declare that the presence of the Sovereign has become indispensable, and cannot be longer deferred; but it is not quite certain.

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No. 35.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Strictly Confidential.) *Vienna, August 30, 1876.*

I WAS informed to-day by Count Andrassy that he is greatly embarrassed by the number of Russians passing through Austria-Hungary to Servia. He has called the Russian Ambassador's attention to its inconvenience, to its abuse of the Geneva Convention, and to the risk of its leading to Russian intervention,—to which he can never assent.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 36.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 30, 1876.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOW has addressed urgent advice to Prince of Montenegro to join in the appeal of Prince Milan for an armistice.

His Highness thinks that for the moment an armistice alone can be negotiated, as the conditions of peace can only be fixed after an understanding between the six Powers.

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No. 37.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876.

THE Prince of Montenegro has expressed to Count Andrassy, through an Austrian Agent accredited to His Highness, his desire to see a cessation of useless bloodshed, and to be included in the mediation of the Great Powers requested by Servia.

His Highness has addressed a similar intimation to Russia, and, having requested Count Andrassy to act for him with reference to the Powers who have no Agents at Cettigné, his Excellency has requested me officially to convey the expression of His Highness' wishes to your Lordship.

(Confidential.)

His Excellency added that the Prince reserves to himself the right to explain his views later, as he considers himself, after the success of his arms, to be entitled to better terms than may be granted to Servia, more especially as his troops still occupy semi-independent districts on frontier of Herzegovina; and Count Andrassy is of opinion that it would be for the interest of the Porte, and conducive to the future tranquillity of the provinces, if these districts were ceded to Montenegro.

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No. 38.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

HAVING drawn up Memorandum of the substance of more important statements in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday and the previous day, I used it as the basis of a conversation with Count Andrassy to-day.

He observed, with reference to the suggestion as to risk of obtaining promise from the Porte to re-establish *status quo ante*, that he had made it in strict confidence for your Lordship's information, adding that he was ready to express his opinions frankly and sincerely to me on the clear understanding that they were not to be communicated to other Governments or published in the Blue Books, so as to compromise him with his more immediate allies and some sections of his countrymen.

He then said that he believed, though the Porte would agree to terms of peace, it would decline a mere proposal for a suspension of hostilities, but as all the Powers had determined to propose an armistice, until an answer be received nothing more can be done, but he considers an armistice for three months, as Prince Gortchakow will suggest, would be followed by a renewal of the war, whereas a short time would suffice to conclude a peace on the basis of the *status quo ante*. He considers the wish of the Porte to occupy Servian fortresses as inadmissible, but he understands that the Turkish Government will probably ask for a right to make a railway at its own expense through the Principality, which, as an advantage to Europe, might be taken into consideration. He says that the suspension of hostilities should be extended to the insurgent Provinces, and on my asking what arrangements should be made then, he sees no alternatives between proposals in December note and a complete solution of the Oriental question, as autonomy or even Cretan institutions cannot be given to one Turkish Province without their being granted to all, and he thinks the Powers may hesitate before embarking on such a course.

* Repeated to Embassies.



I said to him that if his proposals, as already accepted by the Porte, are to be carried out, a large garrison of regular troops might be required in the Provinces to awe the Turkish population and the insurgents, and to protect Christians. He said that he was also of this opinion, but he could only express his private view; and that, if troops are considered necessary, they would have to be kept apart in large garrisons, as proposed in the Berlin Memorandum.

He goes to-night to join Emperor in , but will return to-morrow evening, and he assures me that he will always be glad to communicate his views to me, on the understanding that our conversations are strictly confidential.

He said that during his absence, a storm, which threw down telegraph posts, prevented his communicating with Vienna.

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No. 39.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

INSTRUCTIONS as yet received by me and my colleagues are not sufficiently precise to enable us to lay before the Porte a direct proposal of mediation.

It is desirable that we should be exactly instructed as to communication to be made by us.

Porte greatly objects to insurgents being included in armistice, and as none of the Governments have alluded to them to their Representatives, it will facilitate matters if all mention of them can be omitted.

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No. 40.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram of yesterday, Austrian and German Ambassadors have received instructions to support proposal of mediation.

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No. 41.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1, 4 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 30th ultimo, the Italian proposal of a collective note is very objectionable.

Support of Prince of Montenegro's expectation of cession of territory to him without this would be sure to give rise to the greatest difficulty here.

No. 41.

*Sir. A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 1, 1876, 4·5 P.M.

I READ to-day to Baron Hofmann a Memorandum stating the opinions of Sir H. Elliot, as expressed in your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday.

With regard to insurgents, he said that the armistice to be proposed must include the whole theatre of the war, and that it must be clearly understood that hostilities* shall cease everywhere, but he thought this might be done without the insurgents being specially named.

Count Zichy is, he said, instructed to propose an armistice alone, as suggested by Prince Gortchakow, and loyally to endeavour to induce the Porte to assent to it. But Baron Hofmann believes Count Andrassy to share Sir H. Elliot's doubts as to such a proposal being accepted.

I left my Memorandum with him, at his request, to be forwarded to Count Andrassy, who is still with the Emperor in campaign, and from my last conversation, I anticipate, if the armistice is declined, he would be ready to act (in) conformity with the opinion of Sir H. Elliot, if Her Majesty's Government are prepared to do so.

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No. 42.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 30th ultimo, the Italian proposal of a collective note is very objectionable.

Support of Prince of Montenegro's expectation of cession of territory to him without this would be sure to give rise to the greatest difficulty here.

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No. 43.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received Sepember* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram is being forwarded by the Representatives to their Governments after we had consulted together :—

"Representatives of the six Powers are of opinion that a Memorandum, similar, but not identic, be given by them to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to inform him that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, having expressed a desire to see an end put to the hostilities, Powers propose their mediation to bring about a cessation of them in every quarter, and with the least possible delay."

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No. 44.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*†—(*Received September* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 10 P.M.

MY previous telegram was written after a meeting of the Representatives to compare their instructions.

The Austrian Ambassador had instructions to propose to the Porte mediation for the suspension of hostilities, and to ask the conditions of peace which it would expect.

None of the others are desired to put this question to the Porte, but most of them are instructed to require that the insurgents should be included in the armistice, as well as Servia and Montenegro.

I asked whether any of us were in a position to state that the insurgents asked for an armistice, or to guarantee that they would observe it.

No one could answer in the affirmative, and it was at last agreed that it should be proposed to omit all direct mention of them.

* The cypher does not make this, but "hospitalities," which is clearly a mistake.

† Repeated to Embassies.

The Russian Charge d'Affaires appeared to be unwilling that conditions of peace should be entered upon too soon, fearing, I imagine, that they might be arranged with Servia independently of the other Principalities.

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No. 45.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

*Foreign Office, September* 1, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
AS Austrian Government objects to collective action, and as time presses, I have to instruct you to propose at once to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less than a month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of terms of peace. The armistice should include all combatants.

You will inform your colleagues of these instructions, and ask for their support.

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No. 46.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 2.)

*Paris, September* 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
MAY I communicate to Duc Decazes the substance of your telegram of yesterday, instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose an armistice to the Porte?

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No. 47.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*

*Foreign Office, September* 2, 1876, 3·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOU may communicate to the Duc Decazes substance of my telegram instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose an armistice to the Porte.

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No. 48.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 2.)

*Berlin, September* 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
GERMAN Ambassador at Constantinople is instructed to use his discretion as to mode of demanding, and duration of, armistice; whilst deeming promptitude in cessation of hostilities necessary, General Bülow declines offering any further opinion on the subject.

He has requested me to inform Her Majesty's Government that General Manteuffel has been instructed by the Emperor to proceed to Warsaw to compliment the Czar.

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No. 49.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 2, *at night.)*

*Rome, September* 2, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
MINISTER for Foreign Affairs will telegraph to Italian Minister at Constantinople to-day to support Her Majesty's Ambassador in his demand for an armistice.

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No. 50.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 2.)

*Vienna, September* 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of instructions to apply for an armistice including all the combatants, but while I was with him he received a

* Repeated to Embassies.



telegram that the Representatives at Constantinople had agreed on a communication being made to the Porte on Monday.
(Very Confidential.)
He expressed anxiety at the effect of public opinion in Russia if the report should become known there which had reached him that Great Britain would not oppose Russian armed intervention in Turkey, adding, however, that he did not believe that the Russian Government would lightly violate their engagements on the subject, but he said if they did intervene, Austria-Hungary would also do so to protect their own interests.

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No. 51.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 2, *at night.)*

*Therapia, September* 2, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE sent your telegram of yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have communicated it to my colleagues, asking them for their sppport.

Your Lordship's instructions supersede the proposal made at the meeting of the Representatives yesterday, and are greatly preferable.

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No. 52.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 2, *at night.)*

*Therapia, September* 2, 1876, 2·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
RUSSIAN Dragoman having failed yesterday to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs, asked Under-Secretary to tell his Excellency that the Guaranteeing Powers had invited the German Government to negotiate peace in the name of pacification (? the rest).

Minister for Foreign Affairs sent to me this morning to ask me whether I knew anything of this step.

I said to him I did not, but I should be glad to be informed by your Lordship whether the statement is correct.

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No. 53.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 3.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 2, 1876, *midnight.*

THERE is an evident desire on the part of Prince Gortchakow to support any proposal of England, rather than be drawn in the wake of Austria. The wish of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs from the very commencement has been to keep the lead in his own hands, and to prevent collective action of the six Powers.

I have reason to believe that it was his influence which restricted the drawing up of the Berlin Memorandum to the six Powers, and his present opposition to a Conference may be explained on the same grounds.

I suspect that he is pursuing an interested policy, for which, under certain conditions, he obtained the acquiescence of Russia at Reichstadt, but which would be defeated by collective action of Powers, and would certainly not be assented to by a European Conference.

The present crisis is one of serious gravity. The opening for peace now offered can be only successfully utilized by collective action of the Powers, and by a European Conference, which would at once calm the intense excitement in this country in favour of the Servians. No other means will prove effectual to restore peace and order in the troubled districts, and if not speedily adopted, very serious European complications may result.

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No. 54.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 3, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram on the subject of an alleged notification by the Russian Dragoman to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the German Government had been invited by the Guaranteeing Powers to negotiate a peace, the German Ambassador and Baron Hofmann, both of whom I have seen this evening, appeared to be ignorant of any such proposal having been made at Berlin.

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No. 55.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 3, 1876, 11·50 P.M.

I AM told that Count Zichy has been desired to support step taken by Sir Henry Elliot in conformity with your Lordship's instructions of the 1st instant.

I have not been able to see Count Andrassy, who leaves to-morrow for the manœuvres.

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No. 56.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 3, 1876, *midnight.*

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram communicated to me in your Lordship's telegram of to-day, I would observe that, as far as I can judge, the feeling here is that Russia is anxious to (? protract) negotiations for peace, in the hope that the Servian army may be strengthened by the influx of Russian volunteers, for, as an Austrian functionary said to me yesterday, the Emperor is the only man in Russia who really wishes peace. It is felt also, I believe, that, if Prince Gortchakow had supported purely and simply the Berlin Note as accepted by the Porte, the insurrection would have been suppressed. Count Andrassy's views, as shown by that Note, were (? plain) enough to Her Majesty's Government, (? and are), I believe, nothing more now. He doubtless is vain of appearing to take the lead, and by his doing so he wounded the well-known vanity of Prince Gortchakow, who, it might almost have been foreseen, would make an (? untoward) attempt to take the first place, as he did by depriving the December Note of its finality.

If Russia shows an honest desire for peace without self-interested views, I believe that she will have no reason to complain of Austria; but she is evidently suspected here of desiring something very different to the *status quo ante* with the redress of Christian grievances.

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No. 57.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 3, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 3, 1876. 5·20 P.M.

I HAVE formally made to the Porte the communication directed by your telegram of the 1st.

Grand Vizier is unwell, but I have seen Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The feeling among the Ministers and the public is strongly against the acceptance of an armistice, which is regarded as altogether favourable to Servian interests.

They say that if the remainder of the season during which military operations will be

* Repeated to Embassies.



possible is lost in an armistice, while Servians continue to receive reinforcements and supplies from Russia, their own position will be intolerable.

They would be ready to treat for peace on moderate terms, but cannot suspend their operations till they know the basis of it.

I meet these arguments by saying that peace is sure to come out of the armistice, but they repeat that it is necessary for them to know the conditions.

I apprehend great difficulty, if not impossibility, unless assurances can be given of the conditions that will be supported by the Powers; and if the peace with Servia can be treated separately from that with Montenegro it might facilitate matters.

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No. 58.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 4, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram from Sir H. Elliot of the 2nd, if any request has been addressed to the German Government for negotiating peace, it has been hitherto declined.

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No. 59.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 4, 1876, 3 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government know of no foundation for assertion reported in your telegram of 2nd instant, that Guaranteeing Powers had invited Germany to negotiate peace.

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No. 60.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 4, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 4, 1876.

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram repeated to me by your Lordship yesterday, there is no doubt that Count Andrassy's object has been to substitute influence of Austria over the Slavs for that of Russia, which thwarted him by the authority she possessed over the Prince of Montenegro, through whom she kept insurrection alive.

There are many objections to a Conference at present. Peace ought to be obtained as quickly as possible, and without the tedious machinery of a Conference, which would probably go into many questions in addition to conditions of peace between Turkey and Servia and Montenegro.

A Conference may possibly become inevitable hereafter, if, when peace is restored, the arrangements proposed by the Porte respecting Bosnia and the Herzegovina are not considered satisfactory by the Powers, but it would be then necessary to be careful that much larger questions than those involved in those Provinces are not opened by it.

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No. 61.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby,*—(*Received September* 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September* 5, 1876.

DUC DECAZES, who is likely to be absent for another week, has sent me message to say that, on receipt of my letter of 2nd, he telegraphed to French Ambassador at Constantinople to support proposal for an armistice, which Sir H. Elliot was instructed to make by your telegram of the 1st.

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No. 62.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 5*, 1876.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram reporting the objection of the Porte to an armistice, it is my duty to inform your Lordship that a refusal by Turkey of an armistice will so inflame public opinion in this country, that I fear Imperial Government will be driven to intervene in favour of Servia.

By a refusal of armistice, therefore, Porte will risk far more danger than any possible disadvantage which it may anticipate from its acceptance.

Porte might be induced to yield if it were informed of this, and that a European Conference would meet immediately on their acceptance of armistice to bring about a peace on the basis of the *statu quo* territorial.

A war indemnity may be claimed, and not unjustly, from Servia, but an agreement might be come to that it should be devoted to rebuilding villages burnt, and rehabilitating the fugitive population in their homes under the supervision of an International Commission.

I doubt if Russia will agree to a peace with Servia separate from Montenegro.

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No. 63.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, September 5*, 1876.

I LEARN indirectly from an official (of the) secret Proclamation of the Emperor that a war manifesto is expected to be issued in a few days.

I cannot guarantee this information, but I have confidence in the source from which it came.

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No. 64.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5*, 1876.

I HAVE only yesterday evening received, from Consul-General at Belgrade, the written text of the application of Prince Milan Obrenovitch for the mediation of the Powers, which appears to have been, not for the suspension, but for the cessation of hostilities.

The proposal submitted to the foe is for an armistice; but one for peace or the cessation of hostilities would have better prospect of success.

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No. 65.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5*, 1876.

I FIND that such of my colleagues as I have spoken to do not attach importance to the distinction pointed out in an earlier telegram to-day between suspension and cessation of hostilities.

Your Lordship may, perhaps, think distinction undeserving of notice. [I] drew attention to it on account of strong objection of the Porte to a mere armistice.

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No. 66.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5*, 1876.

ALL my colleagues yesterday made their communications to Minister for Foreign Affairs in support of proposed mediation, except French Ambassador, who will make his to-day.

The Austrian Ambassador had instructions to ask, at the same time, that the Porte should make known conditions of peace to which it pretends; the French Ambassador is instructed not to touch upon that point; and the others are I believe without instructions on the subject.

I am told that at Council of Ministers on Sunday the general tone was very much against the acceptance of armistice, and it seems impossible to convince them of the risks to which they will expose themselves by a refusal.

Many believe that Russia is determined on war, which would begin in still more unfavourable conditions at expiration of an armistice.

Some continue to flatter themselves that Europe will not stand by and permit an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey by Russia, and refuse to listen to warnings that they are deceiving themselves.

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No. 67.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 5*, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

THE Servian Agent had an interview with Count Andrassy on Sunday in which he earnestly urged Austria-Hungary to use her good offices at Constantinople to protect Servia from the possibility of the consequences of Turkish successes at Alexinatz, but Baron Hofmann does not seem to be certain whether he acted by the orders of his Government.

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No. 68.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 5*, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

WITH reference to the alleged invitation to the German Government, Count Andrassy yesterday desired Baron Orczy to inform me that he knew nothing of such a proposal, and that he considers it improbable that a measure of the kind will be adopted.

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No. 69.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, 4·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 5*, 1876, 11·50 P.M.

After sending my telegram of the 2nd instant referred to in your Lordship's of yesterday, I carefully read over the correspondence in my possession and told Baron Hofmann I could find nothing to confirm the report in question except your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot of the 9th ultimo, warning the Porte against atrocities, in which the word "interference" was used, which, in my opinion, had a very different signification from "intervention."

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No. 70.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 5, 1876.*
(Confidential.)

I COMMUNICATED to-day to Count Mulinen, for transmission to Count Andrassy, a memorandum containing substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, acquainting me with Sir H. Elliot's report of the objections made by the Turkish Ministers to grant an armistice without previous understanding as to conditions of peace.

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No. 71.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1876.*
(Confidential.)

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires says Midhat Pasha told him to-day that although Porte could not consent to an armistice, it would be prepared to put forward conditions so moderate that peace might be concluded at once.

Chargé d'Affaires says that he cannot believe the Powers would consent to this, as the conditions might not be such as to satisfy Powers, and, moreover, that even if conditions as regards Servia were satisfactory to the Governments, or at all events his own would not allow peace to be made which would enable the Porte to turn all its force against Montenegro.

I said that if the conditions of peace offered by Porte were sufficient to satisfy two Principalities, I did not think it possible for the Powers to object to peace being made upon that basis.

Moreover, if the conditions offered were such as to satisfy Servia, I did not believe Powers could insist on her going on fighting on for the purpose of getting better terms for Montenegro.

This conversation leaves me no doubt that Russia will resist every attempt to conclude a peace which is not the result of foreign mediation or intervention.

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No. 72.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)*

*Belgrade, September 6, 1876.*
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH turning movement appears partly successful, but the Servians intend defending all the retrenched positions, as the carnage on both sides continues great, an armistice extremely desirable with a view to avoid mutually fresh obstacles to reconciliation.

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No. 73.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6, 3·5 P.M.)*

*Belgrade, September 6, 1876, 12 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH forces appear now sufficiently numerous to be able to advance, leaving Alexinatz and Deligrad aside. It seems Porte might without inconvenience consent to armistice limited to a fortnight so as to give time for the settlement of basis of peace, which Servia would be happy to accept on the *status quo ante* if allowed to do so by Russia.

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No. 74.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6, 1·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 6, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

I BELIEVE it originated with Count Schouvaloff, who appears to have concluded, from an answer given to him in explanation of your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot, that, if Russia considered it necessary to intervene, England would not oppose her.

I expressed disbelief that your Lordship had made any such declaration on the subject; but I did not encourage conversation, as I wished first to look through the correspondence.

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No. 75.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 6, 1876, 3 P.M.*

TELEGRAM received yesterday from the Austrian Ambassador stated that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in declining proposal for an armistice, promised to submit the conditions of peace in a few days to the Powers, which Count Zichy believes will stipulate for garrisons and right to construct a railway to Belgrade.

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No. 76.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 6, 1876, 2·15 P.M.*

IN reference to your telegram received last night, warn the Turkish Ministers that if proposal for armistice is rejected, Her Majesty's Government can do nothing more to prevent the ruin which they will have brought on the Empire.

It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation. All combatants must be included in the suspension of hostilities. Negotiations for peace will be undertaken immediately on conclusion of armistice.

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No. 77.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 6, 1876.*

I BEG to offer the following observations in reply to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of Monday night:—

My reference to policy of Count Andrassy did not relate to his object in substituting Austrian for Russian influence over the Slavs, which is natural and legitimate, but to a secret understanding which, I believe, was concerted with Prince Gortchakow at Reichstadt to annex three-quarters of Russia in certain eventualities.

Regarding a Conference, I may observe that Europe has had sufficient experience of Turkish delay in the attainment of peace. An European Conference in autumn last year would have saved the Porte and Europe from the present state of affairs.

When peace is restored an European Conference will be no longer necessary, but I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that, without an European Conference, no peace will be obtainable, and further that, without such Conference, there is imminent danger of a war between Russia and Turkey, which may involve all Europe.

A Conference may be strictly limited to the deliberation of certain given points, beyond which no discussion is allowed.

Collective Europe may stay the nearness of the war; prevent its extension; by its mediation Europe may give fresh vitality to the Turkish Empire; but if the war continues, and I see no possibility of Turkey arresting it alone, the Oriental question will arise in its full intensity, and the very existence of Turkish rule in Europe will be at stake.

No. 78.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)*

*Therapia, September 6, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)
INVESTITURE of Sultan takes place to-morrow, and it will be impossible to communicate your telegram of this afternoon to the Porte.

It is of the highest importance that I should be able to inform Turkish Ministers of conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to support.

The only chance of obtaining their consent to the armistice is by satisfying them that the peace to be negotiated will not be incompatible with interests of the country.

No. 79.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)*

*Rome, September 6, 1876*

(Telegraphic.)
MINISTER for Foreign Affairs telegraphed yesterday evening to Constantinople to say that if the Porte refuse armistice it will be an act of madness, and that Italian Government reject all responsibility for the consequences.

No. 80.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received September 7, at night.)*

*Vienna, September 7, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)
I COMMUNICATED to-day to Baron Hofmann the substance of some part of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot, instructing him to warn the Porte against the danger of refusing the proposed armistice, and I asked him if Russian intervention is the danger alluded to—did he consider such eventuality probable? As he answered by inquiring whether I believed that isolated intervention of Russia would be tolerated, I rejoined that Count Andrassy had already said to me that, if Russia intervened, Austria would do so likewise. To this he replied that there is, however, another point to be decided, namely, whether Austria should act against Turkey or against Russia. He said that Count Andrassy will return to-night, and must then decide what further action may be expedient.

In the event of a Russian intervention, there are certain serious reasons against Austria acting in concert with Russia. I have heard it said here by different persons that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople is the only person in a position to act alone in inducing the Porte to offer an arrangement which should be acceptable to all parties; and I believe that any reasonable arrangement which he could recommend to the other Governments would be received with satisfaction here.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.



No. 81.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received September 8, 3·15 P.M.)*

*Berlin, September 8, 1876, 2 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)
GERMAN Government are strongly urging on the Porte to accept an armistice. German Minister for Foreign Affairs says that no conditions of peace can be discussed without it.

No. 82.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)*

*Paris, September 10, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)
THE Duc Decazes sends me to say he has telegraphed to French Ambassador at Constantinople to tell the Porte that the French Government sees with sorrow delay in agreeing to armistice; that the Porte must not expect any help from France towards extricating itself from the dangerous consequences of any further delay; that France will not consent to any change in the stipulation established for Servia by the Treaties; and that conditions of peace understood to have been put forward by the Porte are quite inadmissible.

The Duc Decazes thinks it extremely important that the Porte should be made to see that it has nothing to hope from England or France if it resists establishment of an immediate armistice.

No. 83.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)*

*Paris, September 10, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)
M. DESPREZ says he has communicated to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires Duc Decazes' instructions to French Ambassador to warn Porte not to expect help from France, and has been assured that the Italian Government has sent similar instructions to Constantinople. He tells me also that the Prince of Montenegro has asked the Consuls to request the Powers to obtain an armistice for him.

No. 84.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)*

*Therapia, September 10, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)
DECISION of the Porte not to agree to an armistice will be communicated to us to-morrow. Ministers are unanimous and determined. They will state conditions of peace that they expect. These are:—

1. A new investiture of the Prince, if the Servians wish to keep him as their ruler.

2. Recognition of right to occupy fortresses, but Porte will be willing to negotiate with respect to effect to be given to it.

3. Payment by Servia of the interest on the sum spent by Turkey in the war, which is estimated at about 1,000,000*l.*

4. Railway through Servia to be worked by a Turkish Company; but if this proposal is objected to by the Powers, Porte is prepared to submit.

5. Limitation of Servian regular army, and the entire suppression of the militia.

If these conditions are agreed to, the Porte will at once order suspension of all military operations, upon similar orders being given by Servian Government to their Commanders.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 85.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 10, 1876, 7·15 P.M.

HAVING perceived that some of my colleagues suspected that I was not pressing the proposed medition on the Porte, I yesterday read to the Austrian Ambassador my letter to the Foreign Minister, conveying to him the substance of your telegram of the 6th.

He at once declared that it was quite impossible for any one to use stronger language than I had employed in urging the acceptance of the medition, and in deprecating the intention of the Porte to put forward objectionable conditions of peace.

At his earnest request I allowed him to have a copy of the letter, confidentially, as he said Count Andrassy would be delighted to have this proof of what the action of Her Majesty's Embassy has recently been, which, it is easy to perceive, has been totally misrepresented.

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No. 86.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 10, 1876.

INSTRUCTIONS were sent last night to Count Zichy to urge the Porte not to decline assenting to an armistice.

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No. 87.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1876, *midnight.*

I AM informed by Italian Ambassador that his Government have instructed their Representative to express to the Porte their surprise that Turkey should continue to press on military operations in Servia and Montenegro without taking notice of the European offer of mediation. He is to call the attention of the Turkish Ministers to the consequences of this course, and to state that, if it is persisted in, Italy must decline all responsibility for the results. The Italian Government asks for our co-operation.

I have told General Menabrea the substance of my instruction to you of the 6th instant.

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No. 89.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 10, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

A DEMONSTRATION took place yesterday at Moscow in favour of Servians: 10,000 persons assembled at the railway to witness the departure of persons charged to convey a Greek chapel and its sacred appurtenances to General Tchernaieff.

They afterwards proceeded to the Governor's house in procession, and sang a religious hymn. Expressions of dissatisfaction were heard against the Emperor Alexander and the Government for their supineness in behalf of the Servians. No disorder took place.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 90.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876, 1:30 A.M.

I AM privately informed, from an authentic source, that Field-Marshal Manteuffel was charged by the German Emperor to convey to the Emperor Alexander assurances of His Majesty's entire support on Eastern question.

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No. 91.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 11, 1876.

PREVAILING Russian influence has increased immensely, so that there is but little hope that any terms of peace may be accepted here unless frankly and unequivocally supported by the Court of St. Petersburgh; something positive on this account appears indispensable to successful negotiation as constituting sole hope of preservation of general peace.

If these fail Turkish advancing army would be sure to devastate Servia, as reports (of) Turkish atrocities are confirmed by English coming from the front.

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No. 92.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 11, 1876, 9:30 P.M.

EVERY argument for the armistice has been exhausted, and refusal of Porte to agree to it is not to be shaken.

I hope, however, that I have succeeded in obtaining modification of answer that is to be returned to us, and that Porte will declare its readiness at once to suspend hostilities upon being informed that Powers will take into consideration the conditions mentioned in my telegram of yesterday. These conditions will not be given as a necessary basis of peace, but it will lie with the mediating Powers to accept or reject them after suspension of hostilities.

Rejection of armistice being irrevocable, I made this suggestion on my own authority, as offering only escape out of difficulty that I could devise, and as I have secured the assent of the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, it will probably pass the Council of Ministers.

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No. 93.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 11, 1876.

ALTHOUGH I did not use your Lordship's name in urging Count Andrassy to support your renewed representations to the Porte in favour of an armistice, he appears to have understood I was acting under instructions from your Lordship, and I have received a letter to-day from Count Orezy stating that he has been desired to inform me that as your Lordship has attached importance to Count Andrassy sending further instructions to Count Zichy he has done so.

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No. 94.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876, 4 P.M.

RUSSIAN Consul-General at Ragusa has telegraphed as follows to Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday, from head-quarters of Prince of Montenegro:—

"Prince of Montenegro, on receiving intelligence from Servia that the Porte rejects armistice and will make its own conditions of peace, hostilities being continued, has addressed a note to Agents accredited to him, in which he requests their Governments to consider an armistice as an indispensable prelude to peace. The military position of Montenegro precludes a dictation of peace by the Porte whose conditions will probably be unacceptable.

"His Highness therefore requests the six Powers to address a formal demand to the Turkish Government imposing armistice, and to meet immediately in Conference to decide in concert with Principalities and Turkey on the question of peace and the future position of the Christian population in Turkey. Prince hopes the Powers will take his request into consideration, and act promptly thereon."

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No. 95.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876, 4·50 P.M.

THIS morning's paper publishes following telegram, dated Tashkend August 28/September 9.

"After eight days fighting the Chinese took Manas on August 4, and occupied the north fortress. Insurgent leader fled to Urumtsi. Troops ordered to take position in Tschanson Ssari and will have to march against Urumtsi."

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No. 96.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government can only speak in their own name and cannot answer for the opinions that may be put forward by other Powers, but the following provisions seem to them proper to form the basis of a pacification, and I have communicated them as such confidentially to the Russian Ambassador.

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Guarantees of a similar kind against mal-administration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Any modification of Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia. Resumption of right to garrison Servian fortresses, or deposition of Prince Milan, are regarded by us as inadmissible.

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No. 97.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Berlin, September* 12, 1876.

COUNT BULOW expresses opinion that probable refusal of Porte to grant armistice must create serious difficulties, and he does not see how conditions of peace can be brought forward for discussion. I said, without mentioning Turkish conditions set forth in your telegram of 10th, that Her Majesty's Government, in view of such contingencies, had communicated confidentially to the Russian Government their views, and I mentioned in a general and confidential form substance of your telegram of

* Repeated to Embassies.



yesterday, and expressed a hope that it would meet with the approval and support of Prince Bismarck.

His Excellency manifested great satisfaction, but appeared disappointed that under the circumstances no provision seemed to have been made for the Greek provinces.

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No. 98.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 12, 1876.

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy, confidentially, with the substance of your telegram to Sir H. Elliot, stating the provisions which Her Majesty's Government think ought to form basis of pacification. On the inadmissibility of any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourably to Servia, and of the resumption of a right to garrison her fortresses, he said that all the Powers were agreed. He objects, however, to autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina as impracticable for reasons he has already stated, and as certain to bring about a state of things in these provinces which would force Austria to occupy them. He said that all the Powers had accepted the reforms of the December note, and Russia again adhered to them at Reichstadt, and they will secure greater advantages to provinces than autonomy can offer. He also objects to stipulating for reforms in Bulgaria, as there are many reasons why the Porte should refuse such a proposal, and he would, therefore, only ask, as a guarantee against future outrages against the Christians, for an engagement that regular troops should be alone employed in Bulgaria and the other European provinces of the Empire. He said that Russian Ambassador had just been urging the necessity of imposing armistice on the Porte independently of conditions of peace, whereas he wished the Powers to agree on the conditions of peace, and to impose an armistice and peace simultaneously. I asked him how he would impose them if the Porte refused, and he answered by employing force, which could be easily done by a naval demonstration at Constantinople. An occupation of Turkish territory would lead to war, the limits of which could not be foreseen, but conditions dictated by a combined fleet at Constantinople would be accepted. I said that he forgot that such a fleet would have to pass the Dardanelles, and forcing the passage would be equally the commencement of war. He said that something, however, must be done, as large numbers of Herzegovinian refugees and Montenegrins are now seeking refuge on Austrian territory, and these persons must be enabled to return home before the winter.

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No. 99.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baden, near Vienna, September* 12, 1876.

WHEN speaking of Bulgaria, as reported in a previous telegram to-day, Count Andrassy said measures proposed by the Powers in Bosnia and the Herzegovina might be assented to by the Porte as a man consents to amputation of a diseased limb, but no one will consent to excision of his backbone. The Porte is not likely to agree to give Bulgaria, with its mixed population and its geographical position, an exceptional semi-independent system of administration.

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No. 100.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 12, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

TURKISH Consular Agents report that very large contracts are being made for corn and hay in Bessarabia, and that troops, without being increased in number, are being concentrated near Moldavian frontier. Leave is refused to all men belonging to the reserve, with the exception of such as volunteer for Servia.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 101.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1876.*

THE refusal of armistice by the Porte is of serious gravity. It is my conviction that, unless the six Powers address collective *ultimatum* to the Porte demanding immediate unconditional suspension of hostilities, under threat of breaking off diplomatic relations, there is every fear of isolated action on the part of Russia, which may lead to graver complications. England has the lead. She can restrain as well as guide, and the appeal of the Prince of Montenegro, which cannot be unheeded by Powers, gives an opportunity for a renewal of energetic and collective action.

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No. 102.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 12, 1876, 10·10 A.M.*

SHOULD I or should I not communicate to Duc Decazes substance of your telegram of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot, specifying conditions of peace?

I shall probably see him to-morrow.

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No. 103.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 12, 1876, 7·30 P.M.*

NO objection to you communicating to Duc Decazes' telegram respecting conditions of peace.

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No. 104.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 13, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

I SAW Baron Orczy to-day, as Count Andrassy had gone to German Embassy, and I acquainted him confidentially with the substance of your telegrams of yesterday. He does not think Russia is prepared for war, and Count Andrassy showed no fear yesterday of the threatening appearances in that Empire.

A telegram was received to-day, stating that the Sultan had ordered the answer proposed by Minister to be revised in a second Council; and I said that the modifications in it, hoped for by Sir H. Elliot, have probably been submitted to this Council, or, perhaps, even your Lordship's suggestions for a basis of pacification. Baron Orczy is personally of opinion that an answer so amended would not be received as satisfactory by the Powers, and I replied that your Lordship has expressed no opinion on it, and would doubtless wait to see its precise terms before doing so; but it seemed to me, personally, if these terms should only place on record what the Porte may consider is to be justly claimed from Servia, and leave Powers to accept or reject its proposals after having examined them, it might, perhaps, be expedient to secure an immediate suspension of hostilities by granting the satisfaction to Turkey of being able to consider the subsequent withdrawal of her claims as concessions made to the wishes of the Powers.

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No. 105.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 14, 1876.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram stating that he was unofficially informed that the Council had approved of his proposed modification of answer to be given to the



Powers. I repeated to-day that your Lordship had not yet expressed an opinion upon them, and I asked Count Andrassy whether, if this should prove correct, and if Her Government were disposed to accept the answer, Austro-Hungary would do so.

Count Andrassy said that he could not make such a promise, as he had yesterday accepted the proposal of Russia to insist on an unconditional armistice, and besides, as the Powers had already declared the greater part of the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissable, he did not see how they could now agree even to modified conditions which the Porte wished to attach to its assent to an armistice.

He said that Russia wishes an armistice with protracted conferences afterwards, but he has agreed to insist on an unconditional one, on the understanding that the Powers will immediately decide on the conditions of peace to be submitted to the Porte. If the Porte grant an armistice, he said, she may then state her views as to the conditions of peace. The Powers will accept or reject them, and submit to her those which they have [? agreed] should be adopted with respect to these conditions. His Excellency will certainly not assent to them, reporting his former observations on the impracticability of autonomy and on the impossibility of its existing without the entire disintegration of the Empire.

I still think, however, that if England, France, and Italy accepted the modified answer, the other Powers could hardly risk a continued war by rejecting it.

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No. 106.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14, 3 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 14, 1876, 10·5 A.M.*

I ENTIRELY agree with remarks of Count Andrassy, reported by Sir A. Buchanan respecting autonomy in Bosnia.

I believe autonomy to be unsuited to that province, and that it would prepare way for inevitable future trouble.

I also agree with him in deprecating stipulations for reforms in Bulgaria. Reforms must be introduced in all the provinces of the Empire, but the measure should be, if possible, general.

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No. 107.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 14, 1876.*

A MEMORANDUM of the Porte in answer to proposals of mediation has been received. It is a long document, tracing the origin of the war, and stating the conditions of peace which the Porte thinks itself entitled to expect. It states, however, that the Imperial Government submit these conditions entirely to the judgment and equitable appreciation of the Mediating Powers, and trust to them to weigh considerations which have inspired these conditions as the means of preventing the recurrence of the existing calamities, and confide in their wisdom and equity. With regard to Montenegro, "on s'en tiendra" to the *status quo ante*. As soon as Powers have expressed their judgment on the conditions, the Porte will give orders to stop hostilities within twenty-four hours, and friendly relations will be resumed with two Principalities. In contradiction with this sentence in the Memorandum, the Porte has informed Dragomans of all the Embassies that without waiting for opinion of Powers the orders for the cessation of hostilities will be sent to-night or to-morrow morning. The demand of the Powers is thus practically complied with, and it is hoped that they will induce two Princes to give corresponding orders to their military authorities.

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No. 108.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 14, 1876.*

SERVIAN Foreign Minister says that his own Government, in applying to the Powers, intended *bonâ fide* peace, and armistice as leading directly to it; that every delay

interposed causes a larger tract of country to be turned into a desert, this being result of Turkish advance. Servian Agent at Vienna spoke to Foreign Minister in the same sense.

Determination of Her Majesty's Government most anxiously expected.

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No. 109.

*[Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 15, 1876.*

THE answer of the Porte is considered unsatisfactory. The Italian Minister will be instructed to maintain, for the present, the reserve which his position as Minister to a Sultan who has not been recognized permits. The declaration by Russia of its determination to accept nothing but the armistice creates alarm, which is not allayed by orders of the Porte to stop hostilities, as Russia is supposed to attach great importance to the question of form.

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No. 110.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15, 1·23 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 15, 1876.*

FROM the language of Count Andrassy yesterday, and from that of the Russian Ambassador, Russia appears decided to insist on an armistice being imposed on the Porte by the fiat of the Powers. Count Andrassy said he had agreed to support this Russian view against his own opinion that the armistice and the peace should form one question, because he understood all the other Powers had adopted it.

Is it wise or humane, however, to prolong the war in order to inflict a humiliation on Turkey, or to incur the risk of complications which would follow the Porte's refusal of such an ultimatum as Lord A. Loftus has indicated, if an armistice can be obtained in the manner proposed by Sir H. Elliot?

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No. 111.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 15, 5·50 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 1876, 4 P.M.*

THE substance of the answer of the Porte having been received from Count Zichy, he has been instructed to state that its proposals are inadmissible, and to urge the Porte to grant an armistice immediately, after which the Powers will be ready to consider any proposals it may put forward.

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No. 112.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876.*

YOU will understand that by the phrase local or administrative autonomy as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, nothing more is intended by Her Majesty's Government than a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local officers, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is no question of the creation of a tributary State.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 113.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876.*

PORTE informs Sir H. Elliot that orders are given to Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. The Servian Government having asked for armistice, I presume that similar orders will at once be given to their commanders. If necessary, press on Servian Government the expediency of so doing.

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No. 114.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876.*

I HAVE received with much satisfaction news that Porte has ordered suspension of hostilities. I have telegraphed to Belgrade to express hope that similar orders will be given to Servian Army. I will endeavour to communicate in same sense with Montenegro.

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No. 115.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876.*

IN supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, Her Majesty's Government must not be considered as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte. Some of these, as you will have seen by my previous telegrams, are, in our opinion, quite inadmissible. You should make this clear in any communications you may have with the Porte or your colleagues.

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No. 116.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876.*

IN supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, Her Majesty's Government must not be considered as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte; some of these are not regarded by us admissible, nor are they likely to be so by other Powers.

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No. 117.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 11 P.M.*

YOUR telegram dated Monday the 11th, in the body of the despatch, but which was sent from London on the 14th, at 6.30 P.M., reached me this morning at the same time as the repetition dated 14th, 5.26 P.M.

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No. 118.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876, 12·50 P.M.*

IN supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities Her Majesty's Government must not be considered as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte. Some of these are not regarded by us as admissible, nor are they likely to be so by other Powers.

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No. 119.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876, 6·25 P.M.

PORTE informs Sir H. Elliot that orders are given to Turkish commanders to suspend hostilities. The Servian Government having asked for armistice, I presume that similar orders will at once be given to their commanders. If necessary, press on Servian Government the expediency of so doing.

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No. 120.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September* 16, 1876.

THE Turkish Memorandum *in extenso* has been received at the Ottoman Embassy here, and the greater part of it has been read to the Duc Decazes, upon whom it has made an unfavourable impression. He says that the French Ambassador at Constantinople telegraphs not that orders for the cessation of hostilities were to be sent by the Porte, but orders to the Turkish Generals to keep on the defensive. The Ambassador promised to telegraph again as soon as he should ascertain that these orders had been actually despatched, but no further telegram has yet been received from him. I have told Duc Decazes of the telegrams sent yesterday by your Lordship to Belgrade, Constantinople, and Rome, with regard to obtaining a suspension of hostilities by Servia and Montenegro.

He hopes that your Lordship may have secured in this way a *de facto* armistice, but doubts this satisfying Russia.

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No. 121.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September* 16, 1876.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to the Duc Decazes a telegram from Livadia, dated yesterday evening, saying that Turkish insolence exceeds all that could be expected, and expressing the hope that the Powers will take a firm attitude, and one consistent with their dignity. The Chargé d'Affaires also tells Duc Decazes that Russia regards the answer as an affront, and entirely separates the question of Turkish conditions from that of armistice.

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No. 122.

*Mr. Mutet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 16, 1876.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to Italian Agent in Montenegro in accordance with your Lordship's request, beginning the instruction by saying that your Lordship has transmitted the news that the Porte had given orders to the Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities.

This form has been adopted to cover responsibility, as his Excellency states that he has not received this news.

His Excellency will not admit that the information given to the Dragoman on this point can be regarded as official, and he has no intelligence of the actual transmission of the orders.

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No. 123.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1876.

ITALIAN and Russian first Dragomans not having waited on Minister for Foreign Affairs on Thursday, the declaration about immediate suspension of hostilities was not made to them at the same time as the others.

I am told that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires expresses indignation at omission, but there is reason to believe that the absence of his Dragoman from the Porte was intentional, but that of the Italian was purely accidental.

It is not usual with the Porte to make important political communications to other than the first Dragomans.

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No. 124.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 16, 1876.

HAVING been asked yesterday to communicate to Count Andrassy confidentially the precise terms which you had communicated to Sir H. Elliot and Russian Ambassador in London as what seemed to Her Majesty's Government might be a proper basis for pacification, I gave Baron Orczy to-day a note of them.

I explained to him at the same time the sense which Her Majesty's Government attach to autonomy, as stated in your telegram of yesterday on this subject.

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No. 125.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 17, 1876.

THE Porte having notified in writing a suspension of hostilities till 25th instant, the Austro-Hungarian agents at Belgrade and Cettigné have been instructed to recommend a similar measure to Servia and Montenegro.

I am also informed that Count Andrassy is about to submit to the Powers a draft of an answer to the Porte stating the terms which they recommend as the basis of a pacification.

It is hoped, if the Powers have not agreed upon these terms so as to be able to submit them to the Porte before the 25th instant, that it may be induced by the Representatives at Constantinople to extend the suspension of hostilities until views of Powers can be communicated to it.

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No. 126.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876, 4·10 P.M.

INFORM the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, in the confidence that it will be further extended in case of necessity.

From the language of the Russian Ambassador to me to-day I have reason to believe that his Government will take the same view.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies and to Mr. White.

No. 127.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)*

*Belgrade, September 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

GREAT sensation produced here by the official telegram of the Commander-in-chief of Servian army, from which it appears that the Turkish squadrons had been the aggressors in an engagement as late as yesterday the 17th.

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No. 128.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)*

*Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs would not state to-day that an engagement would be taken to prolong suspension of hostilities, but he said that it must necessarily be prolonged if before its expiration the Powers are not agreed upon the conditions of peace.

It was, he said, owing to the anxiety of the Porte that peace should be immediately made that the suspension had been made so short, so that the basis should be fixed before the Servians were too much strengthened by reinforcements arriving from Russia, which it is feared would raise their pretensions or those put forward for them.

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No. 129.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)*

*Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

MUSURUS PASHA reports a conversation with your Lordship which has made much impression on the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He states that your Lordship personally recognized much justice in the Turkish conditions, but told him plainly that they would be considered inadmissible, and that if the Porte refused to agree to terms that would be proposed by Powers, Russia, and probably Austria, would interfere by arms; that Great Britain would certainly not join in a war against Turkey, but that public feeling in England is such that Her Majesty's Government could not go to war with any other Powers in her defence, but must withdraw and leave her to her fate.

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No. 130.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)*

*Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL CALVERT telegraphed two days ago that the reports of intended massacres were owing to the threats of the Mussulman populations; but that he did not apprehend immediate danger, though the Turks, being all armed, an outbreak was possible. Isolated outrages were frequent, and could only be stopped by reinforcements of troops and police to disarm the Turks. I at once urged this measure on the Porte. Another telegram from him received this morning states that they are more uneasy because no reinforcements have arrived, especially as Ramazan begins to-morrow, and on the first night it is the custom of the Turks to fire pistols in the streets. I sent this telegram to the Minister of War, and spoke myself to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the necessity for immediately providing for the security of the population. A new Commission, consisting of four Mussulmans and four Christians, left this morning, with full powers for investigating further outrages and for punishing the authors.

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No. 131.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)*

*Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE informed Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government consider some of the conditions of the Porte inadmissible.

Mussurus Pasha had already informed his Excellency that you had stated to him that they could not be accepted.

I asked him what the Porte would do if the Powers rejected them.

He said that the Porte had already declared that it would abide by the decisions of Powers, and it would do so, though it could not believe that all its proposals would be set aside.

He asked views of Her Majesty's Government about Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressing the hope that those Provinces might be left to be included in administrative arrangements.

I said that it was not to be supposed that the arrangement of a system of administration for those Provinces could be deferred till a general reorganization took place, and the Powers must certainly now agree as to what was to be done.

He must, moreover, not be surprised if the Powers insist that measures shall be taken to secure the Bulgarians from repetition of acts which have taken place, and the best course for the Porte to take would be at once to promulgate reforms which will be considered sufficient for the purpose.

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No. 132.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19, at night.)*

*Rome, September 19, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

THE following is a translation of a telegram from Italian Representative in Montenegro, dated Danilograd, September 18:—

"The Prince of Montenegro, in order to render his verbal communication clear, has written a letter to me in which he states that he has given orders this evening to his commanders, framed in the same terms as the Memorandum of the Porte to the Contracting Powers, for the suspension of hostilities—of course on condition that the Turkish and Montenegrin troops maintain strictly the positions which they actually occupy.

"Consequently he will consider as hostile fact any movement of Moukhtar Pasha to extricate himself from his actual position—also his obtaining supplies, which is at present prevented. The same holds good with regard to blockade of the fortresses Niehsich and Medun. The Prince thanks the Government of the King for the interest which they show, and he requests your Excellency to express to the English Government his gratitude for the friendly communication, and his satisfaction at entering into even indirect relations with it.

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No. 133.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)*

*Rome, September 19, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has received telegram from Belgrade saying that Ministry has disavowed the act of army in proclamation of Prince Milan King.

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No. 134.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

*Foreign Office, September 19, 1876, 5:30 p.m.*

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Ambassador has read to me telegrams from his Government, from which it appeared that the Russian Government agreed to the basis proposed by Her

Majesty's Government in my telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 11th instant, for the negotiation of peace, and would be ready to act simultaneously with us as soon as they heard that instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

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No. 135.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th, Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that the Austrian Government will acquiesce in the basis proposed in my telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 11th instant for the negotiation of peace, subject to the explanation I have given of the meaning intended by local autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

You will see by my other telegram of to-day that the Russian Government have acquiesced, and Her Majesty's Government are only waiting for the Austrian answer to make the formal proposal at Constantinople and the Porte.

Press Count Andrassy for an immediate answer, as time is of the utmost consequence.

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No. 136.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE read to Count Andrassy, and left with him, at his request, a memorandum of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, requesting to know whether he acquiesces in your proposals for a basis of negotiations for peace, which I also recited in that document.

He stated in reply that he has no objection to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government as they are explained, but he fears that the word "autonomy" may excite hopes in provinces which cannot be realized, and therefore feels anxious that in any proposal made to the Porte some reference should be made to the reforms already agreed upon, in order that the Christians may understand, by right of autonomy, it is only such reforms, accompanied, perhaps, by some extension and proper guarantees for their execution, that it is intended to obtain for them.

He has sent full explanation of his views on the subject to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, which must have reached London last night, and he hopes your Lordship will be able to formulate any proposal you may make to the Porte so as to enable him to give it his support, as being based on the reforms which the Porte has already assented to.

The above read to his Excellency. He (?) is anxious that what is proposed may be susceptible of immediate application, in order that the refugees may go home before the winter.

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No. 137.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that propositions of peace suggested by Count Andrassy not appearing to the Russian Government admissible, and not being adapted to the present state of things, the Russian Representative at Constantinople has been instructed by telegraph to support the English conditions of peace.

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No. 137*.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 21, 1876, 10 A.M.

SERVIAN Government urgently represent that present suspension of hostilities proves itself unpractical, in consequence of great proximity of outposts in the principal centres.

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No. 138.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 21, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Andrassy proposals only reached Berlin yesterday, and are under consideration.

German Government therefore decline as yet to adhere formally to the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency appears to advocate larger concessions in direction of autonomy for the provinces.

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No. 139.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

IN reply to your telegram of to-day, inform German Government that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has been with me this afternoon and has given me a copy of a telegram from his Government dated yesterday, stating that, having taken into consideration the formal declarations of Her Majesty's Government as to the meaning attached to the proposal for the grant of administrative autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, "the Austro-Hungarian Government is in a position to pronounce in principle its complete consent to the English proposals which have been communicated to it. The Royal Government desires only that it may be formally recorded that the reforms already asked for from the Porte for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and agreed to by the Turkish Government, shall form the basis of that local autonomy."

I have accordingly inserted in the proposals of peace which I have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to make to the Porte, a paragraph that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte shall be included in the administrative arrangements for the provinces.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government trust that German Government will not hesitate to support the proposals at Constantinople.

Urge this on them, as time is of the utmost consequence.

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No. 140.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876, 6·50 P.M.

I HAVE already intimated to your Excellency by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government held the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissible, and I have since learned that the other Powers are of the same opinion.

I have now, therefore, to request your Excellency to inform the Porte of this, and to state that the following are the provisions which seem to Her Majesty's Government proper to form the basis of a pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and the Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local officers, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against mal-administration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Your Excellency will add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte, in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th February last, will be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they may be applicable, for Bulgaria.

Your Excellency is already acquainted by telegraph with the views of the other Powers, and you may state to the Turkish Government that Her Majesty Government

have little doubt that the proposals which you are instructed to make will command a general support.

Your Excellency cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the urgency of the situation, and the advantage which would be gained by a prompt and ready acceptance of the proposed basis of pacification.

You will also state that, as the continuance of hostilities, while the conditions of peace are being dealt with between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, an arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

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No. 141.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

*Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me to-day the substance of a despatch from Count Andrassy in which he stated that the Austrian Government think that the following are the terms upon which peace should be concluded by the Porte with Servia and Montenegro:—

Servia to preserve entire territorial and political integrity. On the other hand she should be called upon to pay compensation for the villages destroyed on Turkish territory.

To this condition Count Andrassy thinks the Servian Government would probably agree.

Servia should also undertake the construction of the line of railway from Alexinatz to Belgrade, as the Turkish Government have not the means of doing it.

To this stipulation also Prince Milan might be disposed to listen.

The other demands of the Porte the Austrian Government consider inadmissible.

As regards Montenegro the terms of peace should be on the basis of the *status quo*. But a rectification of frontier might be asked from the Porte, to be granted as soon as peace is restored.

Upon these conditions the Prince of Montenegro would be ready to do all in his power to secure the return of the insurgents and the general pacification of the disturbed Provinces.

"With regard to the Provinces themselves, Count Andrassy thinks that the reforms promised before the war should be carried into effect in their fullest extent, and that guarantees should be provided for their due execution. Similar concessions should also be demanded for Bulgaria; as to which the notables of that Province should be consulted and a statement obtained of their requirements.

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No. 142.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

*Foreign Office, September* 22, 1876, 3·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORM the Government to which you are accredited of the instructions telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot yesterday respecting the basis for peace.

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No. 143.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 22.)

*Therapia, September* 22, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Ambassador had a public audience of the Sultan on Wednesday to present his credentials, after which he had a private audience when he urged upon His Majesty the importance of facilitating the conclusion of peace by prolonging the suspension of hostilities by means of regular armistice which will diminish the chance of collision and misunderstanding.

He was greatly pleased with the reception given him by the Sultan, and with the disposition exhibited by His Majesty.

* Sent also to Mr. Mallet, Sir A. Buchanan, Mr. Macdonell, and Lord A. Loftus.



I may inform your Lordship confidentially that it was at my suggestion that he asked for the private audience, and that I offered at the same time to convey to His Majesty through a confidential channel my hope that he would receive him as the Representative of a Power really animated by a friendly disposition.

He said that he would be grateful if I could do so, and he has since expressed his warmest thanks to me.

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No. 144.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 22, *at night.)*

*Therapia, September* 22, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I COMMUNICATED to my colleagues your telegram containing the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government. They all agreed that it would be better not to communicate them to the Porte till after the decision of the Grand Council upon the armistice.

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No. 145.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 22.)

*Berlin, September* 22, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE contents of your Lordship's telegram last night have been communicated to Prince Bismarck for approval. His Highness's reply will be sent through the German Chargé d'Affaires. Count Bülow says that the German Government only wish to see a cordial understanding established, and confidently hopes the programme of Her Majesty's Government will be adhered to. He asked me if modification suggested by Count Andrassy has been approved by Russian Government. I said I concluded it had.

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No. 146.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 22, *at night.)*

*Vienna, September* 22, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

WITH reference to the conditions attached by the Prince of Montenegro to the suspension of hostilities, as reported in your telegram of the 20th instant, I learn from Baron Orczy that His Highness having made similar communication to the Austrian Government, has been informed that the suspension of hostilities must be unconditional.

His Excellency does not believe Moukhtar Pasha's position to be so bad as the Prince describes it, and that he will be quite justified in receiving convoys of provisions from the Herzegovina.

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No. 147.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September* 22, *at night.)*

*Vienna, September* 22, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE read to Count Andrassy the copy of your Lordship's instructions of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot as to proposals of Her Majesty's Government for negotiating peace, and his Excellency will immediately instruct Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at London to express his assent to them, and will instruct Count Zichy to support them.

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No. 148.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 22, 1876, 7·10 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires tells me that the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, which he is instructed to support, differ in some degree from those of your telegram to me of the 21st. By his instructions, Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria are to be provided with large measure of local autonomy without political separation, and he says that, as the distinction made in my instructions between Bulgaria and the other provinces does not exist in his, he will have to refer to his Government. Any mention of word "autonomy," as applied to Bulgaria, ought to be, in my opinion, avoided, both on account of resistance to be expected from the Porte, and for the real objections to which it is open.

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No. 149.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 23, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has just informed me that the German Chargé d'Affaires in London will inform your Lordship that the German Ambassador at Constantinople has received instructions to support Sir H. Elliot's proposals.

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No. 150.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 23, 1876.*

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with substance of your Lordship's telegram of last night as to alleged opposition of the Vienna Cabinet to your proposals for peace, and he said the contradiction of the report was the instructions sent yesterday to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to support them.

The Turkish Ambassador here had spoken to me in the same sense as the telegram from the Porte communicated to your Lordship, and I answered that report must have originated in Count Andrassy's objection to the creation of new tribute to States in Turkey, but that Austrian Government had entirely agreed in the views of your Lordship. There is still much anxiety here as to how far Russia has accepted your Lordship's interpretation of autonomy.

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No. 151.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1876.*

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL telegraphed from head-quarters last night that the reports of breach of armistice by the Turks are unfounded. On Sunday premonitory alarm of attack by enemy led to repeated discharges of musketry from outposts. Last night enemy opened fire on the same points, and provoked return fire with occasional shot from batteries there situated. On no occasion have the Turks advanced a foot nor fired, except to repel threatened attacks. Sir Arnold can testify to the utmost forbearance of the Turks, who do not respond, except in the rear of the position, to the repeated shells fired at watering parties, and even within camp.

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No. 151*.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 23, 1876.*

WITHOUT conclusion of a formal armistice between the two Commanders-in-chief, I have reason to believe that hostilities will recommence early next week.

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No. 152.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1876, 3.20 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated this morning to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs instructions telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot on the 21st instant respecting basis of peace. He will telegraph them to Prince Gortchakow; as his latest intelligence from Livadia was dated on the 17th, he was unable to state whether Prince Gortchakow had approved modification suggested by Count Andrassy, but he stated that both Emperor and Prince Gortchakow were greatly pleased by the lead taken by England in the negotiations.

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No. 153.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs from head-quarters this morning as follows:—

"Examination of intelligent Servian prisoner at which I assisted exposed device of Russian officers last night to provoke conflict."

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No. 154.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs the explanation of local or administrative autonomy given in your telegram of 15th instant to Sir H. Elliot. His Excellency believes that it is so understood by Prince Gortchakow.

Russian Ambassador in London appears to have reported the phrase your Lordship used as "a large autonomy local or administrative, without breaking the political link with Turkey."

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No. 155.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 23, 1876, 4 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs requests me to convey his thanks to your Lordship for the communication of the instructions to Sir H. Elliot. His Excellency had previously instructed Italian Minister at Constantinople to support the English proposals.

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No. 156.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 23, 1876, 4·30 P.M.*

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with substance of your Lordship's telegram of last night, as to alleged opposition of the Viennese Cabinet to your proposals for peace, and he said the contradiction of the report was the instructions sent yesterday to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to support them.

The Turkish Ambassador here had spoken to me in the same sense as the telegram from the Porte communicated to your Lordship, and I answered that report must have originated on Count Andrassy's objection to creation of new tribute to States in Turkey, but that Austrian Government had entirely agreed in the views of your Lordship. There is still much anxiety here as to how far Russia has accepted your Lordship's interpretation of autonomy.

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* Repeated to Belgrade.

No. 157.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

*Therapia, September 24, 1876, 6 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Consulate, Belgrade:—

"Porte has not yet consented to formal armistice, but will prolong present suspension of hostilities to the 2nd of October, and orders the military commanders not to resume offensive without distinct orders."

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No. 158.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

*Therapia, September 24, 1876, 7:20 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphs that the Servians have fired shells daily on the Turkish watering parties and foraging parties within the line of the Turkish outposts, as it was on the day the armistice was named."

Sir A. Kemball adds: "Turks say armistice prolonged till 2nd October; if so, Russian officers ought to be required to cease firing shells within Turkish line of outposts."

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No. 159.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

*Therapia, September 24, 1876, 7:20 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH arrived this afternoon in the "Antelope," and left at once to rejoin the fleet at Besika.

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No. 160.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24, 10:20 P.M.)*

*Therapia, September 24, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

AT a meeting of the foreign Representatives to-day the Russian Chargé d'Affaires told us that he was not yet authorized to support conditions of peace as contained in your telegram of 21st. He wished me to postpone communicating to the Porte, and that we should for the present confine ourselves to pressing for armistice.

I said that, although Her Majesty's Government had asked for armistice, the object to be obtained from it was the conclusion of peace, and that Porte seemed ready to make peace at once on the conditions to be proposed by the Powers. If we could obtain that result without preliminary armistice, it would be a clear gain. Your Lordship's instructions to me were explicit, and I must act upon them without delay. They were dated last Thursday, and I must execute them to-morrow.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires said he must wait for instructions before supporting them, and the other Representatives, although already provided with necessary authority, said that in that case they would defer all action till Tuesday; but some of them warmly approved my determination to make communication on the part of Her Majesty's Government to-morrow. It was more than ever evident that the Russians care little about peace, but much about an armistice.

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No. 161.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)*

*Vienna, September 25, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs:—

"Italian Agent is anxious that Her Majesty's Government should authorize me to visit Prince Nicholas. His Highness gave him to understand that he would be gratified by my being sent to him. And Signor Durando is strongly of opinion that my presence would have good effect in assisting to counteract influences hostile to peace; especially if Her Majesty's Government would authorize me to say that they are interested in procuring such reasonable conditions for Montenegro as will assure a solid peace."



I agree in this opinion, and consequently venture to recommend the proposal to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

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No. 162.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)*

*Therapia, September 25, 1876, 6 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated to Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs conditions of peace proposed in your telegram of 21st, giving them to understand they were the best to which Her Majesty's Government could hope to obtain the assent of the Powers, and that if they were rejected by the Porte war would probably arise with Russia, while Great Britain would be obliged to abandon Turkey to her fate. After a long discussion I left them under the impression that they would finally accept conditions; but they asked me whether or not they were to understand that the whole of the conditions put forward by the Porte were rejected. They also said that the prestige and authority of the Porte in all parts of the Empire would be impaired by the signature of a Protocol promising the reforms, and they asked me whether it would not be sufficient that the promise should be made in identic notes to the foreign Representatives. I said that I would refer these two questions to your Lordship, and I hope for an early answer.

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No. 163.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)*

*Therapia, September 25, 1876, 6:20 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

IN my conversation with the Turkish Ministers to-day they continued to object to armistice, but said they were ready to withdraw their troops on peace being agreed to. I then proposed that they should declare their readiness at once to sign preliminaries of peace on the basis of conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government and to withdraw their troops upon these being signed, leaving other details for discussion on the definitive peace. To this they seemed inclined to consent, but the Grand Vizier and their colleagues must be consulted. I said that the Protocol about the insurgent provinces must be signed at the same time as the other preliminaries, to which much objection was made. If it was not for this difficulty I think we could safely calculate on the acceptation of the conditions. It is considered that there is nothing in what is asked by Her Majesty's Government that might not be granted to the provinces generally with the exception of some things previously promised which have special reference to districts devasted by civil war. There is much irritation among Mussulmans here at the suspicion that the Ministers are about to consent to dishonourable terms, and threatening notices against them have been fixed to some mosques. The Christians also are uneasy and fear a popular movement against themselves.

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No. 164.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

*Foreign Office, September 26, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

TELL Mr. Monson that he is authorized to visit Prince Nicholas as suggested. He may tell the Prince that Her Majesty's Government have proposed to the Porte that peace should be concluded on the basis of the *status quo* as regards Montenegro, and he should, of course, use all his influence in favour of pacific counsels.

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No. 164*.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)*

*Belgrade, September 26, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated to Prince Milan personally, yesterday morning, the intelligence received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the prolongation of the armistice to the 2nd of October. My urgent recommendation that orders similar to those issued by the Porte should be given at once to the Servian Commanders was coldly received, and though actively supported by my Italian and

French colleagues, after some apparent hesitation, was at length rejected in a written document, in which Prince Milan professes himself still ready to conclude a regular formal armistice, but not an ill-defined arrangement like the one which was in force till last Monday.

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No. 165.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 26, 1876, 2 P.M.

WE hope that Italian Government will instruct their Agent to communicate to the Prince of Montenegro the consent of the Porte to prolong the suspension of hostilities, and urge His Highness to give similar orders if there should be any necessity for so doing.

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No. 166.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 26, 1876, 2 P.M.

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL telegraphs from head-quarters this morning as follows:—

"Slight affair as usual near the bridge; commenced by Servians before 2, and maintained on both sides with the fire of infantry and frequent shells till past 3."

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No. 167.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 26.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Therapia, September* 26, 1876, 5:24 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me to-day confidential proposals from his Government to us and to Austria that if the Porte refuses offered conditions of peace, the following steps should be taken:—

1. Occupation of Bosnia by Austrian force.
2. Occupation of Bulgaria by Russian force.
3. Entrance of united fleets of all nations into the Bosphorus.

Prince Gortchakow believes threat of these measures would be sufficient to force the Porte to accept terms, and would thus avert war and ensure better treatment of Eastern Christians.

He states in a second despatch that if I think entry of united fleets into Bosphorus sufficient, Russia would consent to abstain from two other propositions.

I have replied that I can give no answer without consulting colleagues; that I do not anticipate absolute refusal of our terms by the Porte, though there may be bargaining upon points of detail. I have urged danger that threats may cause a change in the present prudent disposition of Sultan and his Ministers, and lead to outbreaks against Christians. I have also mentioned bad impression which would be produced in Europe generally.

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No. 168.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 26, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador communicated yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a telegram from his Government stating that the explanations of the English Government being received, orders were sent to the Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to act in concert with the other Representatives.

A telegram from Belgrade reports that the Servians object to the extension of the suspension of hostilities.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 169.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 26, 1876, 11·50 P.M.

THE word "autonomy" offers the chief difficulty to acceptance by the Porte of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government. Porte would, I think, certainly agree to system of control which your Lordship states the expression to be intended to convey.

Would it be sufficient if the Porte signified its acceptance of that system without mention of local autonomy, which is viewed with dislike by everybody, and especially by the Greeks?

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No. 170.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* .)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September* 26, 1876, *midnight.*

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Milan personally yesterday morning intelligence received from Sir H. Elliot on the subject of the prolongation of the armistice to the 2nd of October.

My urgent recommendation that orders similar to those issued by the Porte should be given at once to the Servian Commander was coldly received, and, though actively supported by my Italian and French colleagues, after some apparent hesitation, was at length rejected in a written document, in which Prince Milan professes himself still ready to conclude a regular formal armistice, but not an ill-defined arrangement like the one which was in operation till last Monday.

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No. 171.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received September* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 27, 1876.

ON the 25th instant the Italian Government communicated through their Agent to Prince of Montenegro consent of the Porte to prolongation of suspension of hostilities, and His Highness replied that he would follow the course adopted by Servia.

Information has reached Italian Government this morning that Servia will only consent to regular armistice.

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No. 172.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE (received?) information from Montenegro that the Russian Agent did his best to prevent Prince Nicholas from consenting to the prolongation of the armistice, which was urged upon His Highness by the Austrian and French Agents.

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No. 173.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 27, 1876, 9:30 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY having excused himself from seeing me to-day, I asked Baron Orczy to show him a memorandum of Sir H. Elliot's conversation with the Turkish Ministers, and Baron Orczy represented him to have been rather favourably impressed with the suggestion that the Porte should at once sign the preliminaries of peace and withdraw its troops from Servia. He declined, however, expressing an opinion on this point.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

or on the Porte's wishes to substitute notes for a Protocol until to-morrow, when he must first receive Count Zichy's report and consult the Emperor. He doubts the expediency of substituting notes for a Protocol, and with respect to Turkish conditions, he will urge the construction of a railway by Servia being included in the definitive peace. I have just received a letter from the Ministry, in which he requests me to send him a copy of the memorandum, which I have done.

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No. 174.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 27, 1876, 5 P.M.*

THE Emperor, who had gone to shoot in Styria with a party, including the King of Saxony, returned last night, leaving his guests in the mountains to receive a Russian General, who arrived yesterday with a letter for His Imperial Majesty from the Emperor Alexander. The General was received by the Emperor this morning, and had afterwards a very long interview with Count Andrassy. I have learnt, from a confidential source, that he will return to Livadia immediately on receiving Emperor's answer, and that object of his mission is to come to an understanding with Austria-Hungary to terminate, in concert with other Powers, and the least possible delay, the present dangerous state of things in the East, by insisting on their views being accepted by the Porte. I have been also told, in the strictest confidence, that he speaks of the dangerously excited state of the Russian people, but of the Emperor having no especial sympathy with Servia, but as being merely desirous of advancing interest of Christians in Turkey, and that on being asked whether any concentration of troops had taken place on the frontier he said none, but that twenty days would be sufficient to prepare war.

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No. 175.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

ALTHOUGH not strictly official, the following may be relied on as the decisions come to by the Porte after a Council:—

The creation of a general Elective Assembly.

Completion and strict application of the Vilayet system.

Extension of the powers of the Provincial Councils to sit during three months of the year, replaced during recess by a permanent mixed Christian and Mussulman Commission, to exert a control over the acts of the Government and of the local authorities, and to watch application of the measures decided by the Representative Assembly of the capital.

General application of the measures contained in the Andrassy note.

Organization of municipalities and re-organization of police in the provinces.

These measures will apply to Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, as well as to the rest of the Empire.

Porte will give its answer to-morrow to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, and express its willingness to sign preliminaries of peace upon the above basis.

No difficulty seems likely to be raised about conditions asked by the Porte respecting Servia.

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No. 176.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1876, 5·32 P.M.*

IN reply to the questions raised by the Porte as regards the terms of peace, I fear that, those terms having received the adhesion of all the Powers, there would be great difficulty in obtaining their modification.

Those of the conditions proposed by Turkey, which might be more or less admissible, such as reduction of Servian army, war indemnity, construction of railway, and destruction



of fortresses, present difficulties of execution, and the risk of delays and objections is so great as to make it not worth the while of the Porte to insist on their insertion in the conditions of peace.

As regards the form of a Protocol, I think this cannot be abandoned. An identic note would not satisfy opinion here or in the rest of Europe. Remind the Porte that constitution of the Lebanon was embodied in Protocol of June 9, 1861. The expression autonomy has been generally adopted, and it would be hopeless to attempt its abandonment. The qualifying explanations ought to suffice for the satisfaction of Turkish Ministers.

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No. 177.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1876, 6 P.M.*

PROPOSALS of the Porte reported in my other telegram contained, I believe, the utmost that it will be possible to obtain, and they appear to give more ample control over the administration than was suggested by Her Majesty's Government. Exceptional measures for insurgent Provinces alone would certainly be fatal to tranquillity elsewhere, and it is indispensable that they should be general if insurrections are to be avoided. The great difficulty that I apprehend is connected with the proposed Protocol, which would nearly give the Powers a Treaty right of interference in the internal administration.

Austrian and Russian occupations cannot be carried out without almost certain prospect of risings against the Christians, which the Government would be powerless to restrain, and the mere threat of such measures would cause an irritation among Mussulmans of which the consequences cannot be foretold.

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No. 178.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 27, 1876.*

PRINCE MILAN professes a desire for regular armistice, but, from all I see here, I am of opinion that the prompt offer of a complete restoration of peace, and the *status quo ante*, might yet be accepted here, or, at any rate, might find an echo amongst many Servians. An armistice and prolonged negotiations present numerous dangers of fresh complications, and Russian assistance tends to protract contest during winter, whilst advice given from the same influential source excludes every other.

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No. 179.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

EXPRESS to the Servian Government the surprise with which Her Majesty's Government have heard that Servia, after having asked for the mediation of the Powers, has thought fit, without further consultation, to refuse the prolonged suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey; this, moreover, at the time when we are endeavouring to obtain for her more favourable terms of peace than the issue of the campaign gave her a right to expect. Any attempt on the part of the Servian commanders to renew active operations will throw on them the responsibility of the consequences, and forfeit the support of England.

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No. 180.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1876.*

THE Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires has received a telegram from Bucharest stating that in consequence of the appearance of a large number of Russian volunteers in territory ceded by Russia after the Crimean War, and of their exciting its Bulgarian population, the Government had sent troops into the district to maintain order, and they trust that they will be supported by other guaranteeing Powers if this measure gives umbrage to Russia. Here the Agent has been told to advise his Government to be careful not to give Russia any pretext for complaint against them.

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No. 181.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

I shall start on Friday and arrive at Cettingé Saturday.

I will use every effort to justify the confidence reposed in me by Her Majesty's Government.

Italian Agent has also telegraphed to Rome respecting the antagonistic diplomacy of Russia, which we hear is most energetic.

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No. 182.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1876, 2·45 P.M.*

WITHOUT having any positive information, I shall not be surprised if the mission of General Gomaroff is followed by an Austrian occupation of Servia or other Turkish territory. The letter of the Emperor Alexander, I am told, was accompanied by a long memorandum. I know that an Austrian staff officer had a long interview with the General yesterday, and I found the Imperial and the Austrian Minister of Finance in attendance at the Ministry to-day. If a military chest were created, the former would be charged with disbursements, and the latter would have to find the money.

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No. 183.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 28, 1876, 5 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that General Gomaroff has gone to Vienna to arrange with the Austro-Hungarian Government an immediate joint occupation of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, and the entrance of the fleets into the Bosphorus in case the Porte "tergiversates" in according the armistice, and in accepting the bases of peace proposed by England, which have received the support of all the Powers. I asked his Excellency whence this news came? He replied, "it comes from Livadia." In consequence his Excellency has telegraphed to-day to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to tell the Porte that the existence of Turkish Empire in Europe is at stake unless the armistice and English proposals are agreed to. He is certain that no modification of them will be accepted by Russia. He begged me to say this to your Lordship, and added that England, being the only Power capable of prevailing over hesitation of the Porte, he earnestly hoped that your Lordship would leave no measure untried to convince Turkish Government of its extreme peril.

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No. 184.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1876, 9·20 P.M.*

PORTE has received reports of the regular attack by the Servians on different points. If they are confirmed, Turkish army will resume operations.

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No. 185.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

TURKISH answer will not be given until after another Grand Council, to be held on Saturday, but the proposed Protocol and the word "autonomy" offer difficulties that are likely to prove insuperable. I proposed to-day that the Porte should say that, having adopted for the whole Empire a system of administrative autonomy such as is explained in your Lordship's proposal, it will be ready to record in a Protocol that this system shall be applied to the insurgent provinces, together with the reforms promised in the answer to Count Andrassy's note. Austrian Ambassador is warmly supporting this suggestion, but its adoption is very doubtful.

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No. 186.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphs at 2 this afternoon as follows:—'Servians commenced attack along the whole line at 6 A.M. They have been repulsed everywhere, but not without some loss to the Turks, and more to them. Very one-sided armistice. To-day's murders to be charged to the Servian leaders. Heavy firing still continues.'"

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No. 187.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 28, 1876, midnight.*

I HAVE communicated to Prince Milan and his Foreign Minister the views of Her Majesty's Government, as conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of last night. Myself and Italian Consul were told that Turkish offer of prolongation of armistice reached Belgrade too late; that fighting goes on to-day, and it is impossible to interfere, but that they are as desirous as ever to see the mediation of the Powers brought to a successful issue, and peace restored promptly.

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No. 188.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 29, 1876.*

M. DE BÜLOW has not heard of Russian volunteers in Roumania mentioned in Vienna telegram of yesterday.

No news from Constantinople since yesterday.

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No. 189.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 29, 1876, at noon.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade: Sir A. Kemball telegraphed yesterday evening as follows:—

"Servian attack renewed again and again, supported by heavy artillery until after dark without any success.

"Turks protest with great justice against bad faith of the Servian commanders.

"We think probable that attack may be renewed to-morrow."

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No. 190.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 29, 1876.*

I HAVE reason to believe that the Russian proposal is that, unless the Porte accepts the armistice and the basis for peace as proposed by Her Majesty's Government, purely and simply, a Russian force shall enter Bulgaria through Roumania, and that an Austrian force shall simultaneously occupy Bosnia, the other Powers being invited to send ships of war to Constantinople.

The answers will not be given till Sunday.

Russia considers the proposal submitted to the Porte an ultimatum, and Count Andrassy has apparently agreed that it should be so. He is, however, I am told, seriously embarrassed between the danger of allowing Russia to act alone and the consequences to Austria of acting with her.

Russia is, I am told, confident that she will have nothing to fear from England.

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No. 191.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, September 29, 1876, 3·20 P.M.*

AFTER obtaining information, reported in another telegram of this date, I called on Baron Orczy, and communicated to him the decisions believed to have been adopted by Council at Constantinople. He had already received them from Count Zichy, and said they would not satisfy Count Andrassy. I then asked whether, in that case, the Government had accepted the proposals of Russia for the joint occupation of Turkish territory, and I spoke so decidedly of them that he did not attempt to deny their existence, but only excused himself from discussing them as Count Andrassy had not given an answer to them. From his observations, however, I have little doubt as to their being accepted. I may also mention, in strict confidence, that Baron Rothschild having consulted Count Andrassy to-day as to whether it would be expedient to bring out an Austrian Loan, his Excellency said the situation had become so critical that such a measure would be most inopportune. Under these circumstances I have earnestly advised the Turkish Ambassador to impress upon his Government that a serious danger can only be escaped by immediate pure and simple acceptance of your Lordship's proposals. I have ascertained that Austrian military chest amounts to 2,000,000*l.*, which would meet immediate expenses of an occupation.

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No. 192.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 29, 1876, midnight.*

IN reply to my observation with regard to influence of Russian Agent on the Prince of Montenegro as referred to in Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 27th instant, Minister

* Repeated to Embassies.



for Foreign Affairs communicated to me to-day following telegram from him, dated 27th instant:—

"Prince Nicholas has ordered suspension of hostilities without fixing a term, which he cannot do without previously consulting Prince of Servia. Prince of Montenegro wishes for a formal armistice. He considers suspension of hostilities disadvantageous to Montenegro, as it prevents him dislodging Moukhtar Pasha from Montenegrin territory, where, during the suspension, he has without opposition fortified his position.

"Prince of Montenegro, on demand of Grand Vizier through Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has daily provisioned Turkish fortress of Medun and Russian ambulance, and has sent the medical requirements requested for it. Prince of Montenegro appears to wish to act moderately and humanely."

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No. 193.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 30, 1876, 1·30 P.M.*

TEXT of the Russian proposals:—

(Translation.)

"THE Emperor has sent General Soumarakow to Vienna, who is instructed to propose in case Turkey tergiversate on the armistice and peace on conditions which all the Powers agree to, military intervention of Austria in Bosnia, of Russia in Bulgaria, and simultaneous entry of all the squadrons of the Levant into the Bosphorus.

"These measures seem to us to be indispensable to bring Porte to reason, stop war, and save Christians from a general massacre."

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No. 194.

*Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Athens, September 30, 1876, 4·40 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister is telegraphing to-day to his Government to the effect that the granting of autonomy to insurgent Provinces will be signal for Greece to promote insurrection in Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete.

A meeting as to the reported decision of Great Powers with regard to contributions to be held to-morrow; and an article in a newspaper published to-day calls upon Greece to rise. Similar telegram sent to Constantinople.

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No. 195.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received September 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, 4·57 P.M.*

I LEARN from Baron Orczy that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has reported the suggestion of Sir H. Elliot to the Porte mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

He said that Count Andrassy had not yet expressed an opinion upon it, but that in any case His Excellency would insist upon an armistice.

I then asked if it were true that the proposals now (made?) by Russia include a larger amount of autonomy for the Turkish Provinces than your Lordship's explanation seemed to contemplate, and he acknowledged that Russia has put forward views in that sense, which may go further than what has been intended. On this I observed that any claims upon the Porte put forward subsequently to an answer being given in the spirit of your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot, would place that Ambassador and Count Zichy in a false position, to say nothing of the Governments who had supported these instructions. He said that he could not yet speak to me of the Russian proposals, and of the steps which would be adopted if the answer of the Porte is unsatisfactory; but I gathered from what he said of Count Andrassy's opinions that an occupation of Bosnia by Austrian troops will not take place. I said it would have surprised me if Count Andrassy had

* Similar telegram sent to Constantinople. † Repeated to Embassies.

entirely abandoned his own declared opinion of the inexpediency of such a measure, and had allowed himself to be forced to adopt it by pressure from Russia and in furtherance of the policy of that Empire.

No. 196.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received September 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, 6·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, I am informed here that the Prince of Montenegro will suspend hostilities until 2nd of October.

No. 197.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, midnight.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, it seems to me certain that Count Andrassy has declined to occupy Bosnia, but that he is probably disposed to send Austrian vessels to Bosphorus, as he spoke to me some days ago of such a measure being possibly expedient.

Baron Orczy has also asked me whether the Dardanelles might not be easily forced by landing troops to act against the rear of the batteries. He said, however, that Count Andrassy would decide nothing till he had received answer of the Porte.

No. 198.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1, 10·20 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October 1, 1876, 8·28 A.M.*

COUNT BULOW confirms Sir A. Buchanan's and Mr. Malet's news respecting Russian proposal to enforce policy of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople by an occupation of Turkish territory, and would be glad to know what you think of it.

He has telegraphed to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck, and to Vienna, but has received no answer yet.

No. 199.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1, 6·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 1, 1876, 1·30 P.M.*

I STRONGLY urged Turkish Ambassador yesterday to warn his Government of the danger of declining the offered terms of peace, and to express his fears that grave measures would result from their rejection; there was still time before the Porte gave its answer.

He said he would telegraph immediately.

No. 200.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 1, 1876, 9 P.M.*

MONSON telegraphs:—

"Prince Nicolas is absent but is expected to-night.

"I shall have an audience of Princess this afternoon.

* Repeated to Embassies.



"Prince's Secretary tells me that his Highness considers himself bound not to separate his action from that of Servia; but that he is decidedly in favour of peace, and that the Principality in general is not opposed to it, on the understanding that they obtain territorial concessions.

"Great reliance is placed on the influence of Great Britain, which it is hoped will be exerted in this sense. Russian Agent urges continuation of war.

"I have been requested to ask whether Her Majesty's Government ever received Montenegrin Memorandum dated about May, and to beg an answer by telegraph."

No. 201.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1876.*

GRAND Council was postponed, but will take place to-day, when the answer of the Porte will be decided on.

Some of the Ministers whom I saw late last night said that their objection to the word "autonomy" is insuperable, as they cannot believe that, if it were intended to convey nothing more than is explained by your Lordship's definition, it would be so much insisted upon by Russia.

They appear ready to agree to what is stated in the explanation, but not to commit themselves to an engagement to the extent of which they do not feel certain.

I have urged that if they are unfortunately decided to answer in this sense, they should at any rate attenuate the evil results to be expected from it, consenting to formal armistice, to give time for further negotiations.

No. 202.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2, 2·50 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1876, 12 noon.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed last night as follows:—'Turks have withdrawn during the night from the crescent they had won, which was again occupied by the enemy. All quiet to-day; usual shells.'"

No. 203.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 1st, the Memorandum was received, and is published at page 160 of the Blue Book. Inform Monson.

No. 204.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2, 6·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 2, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

DUC DECAZES has news from Constantinople which makes him fear that the Porte may refuse the armistice and conditions of peace, or indefinitely postpone answering.

M. de Bülow has said to French Chargé d'Affaires that if the Porte refuses armistice, she must be left to her fate; that Germany will wash her hands of the whole affair.

No. 205.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 2, 1876.*

TURKISH Ambassador has read to me to-day a telegram from his Government, dated September 30, making proposal that a scheme of reforms for provinces shall be notified to the Powers in a note, so as to avoid use of expression "administrative autonomy," and form of protocol.

I told him that it was useless to discuss the question, as terms proposed to the Porte had been settled by six Powers in concert, and could not now be discussed.

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No. 206.

*Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 2, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 2, 1876, 6 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assures me that a telegram from Copenhagen, stating that the King is postponing his departure until he obtains Crete and rectification of frontier, is without foundation.

He says that public opinion is much excited at no notice having been taken of Greek races in Turkey, that he cannot say how far present agitation may extend, and that the policy of England having changed, Greece must throw herself into arms of Russia.

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No. 207.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received October 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2, 1876, 7 P.M.*

GENERAL Council has confirmed the reforms which are intended to apply to all the Provinces alike. The terms "Protocol" and "administrative autonomy" have been entirely rejected.

The Council has decided that the reforms in question shall be officially communicated by note to the Embassies.

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No. 208.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received October 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 2, 1876, 10 P.M.*

PREPARATIONS for a winter campaign made here under the impression that the hesitation of the Porte and the probability that the Emperor Alexander may come forward with new demands on Turkey render Russian war not unlikely.

Russia is supposed, with a view to this, to be aiming to secure the neutralization of Austria, and Greece is believed disposed to initiate some action.

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No. 209.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 2, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

DUC DECAZES has received from the French Ambassador at Vienna a telegram dated 5 o'clock this evening, stating that Austrian answer to the letter of the Emperor of Russia had been sent; that he believes it contains an assent to proposal to occupying Turkish territory. The Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople reports the armistice and conditions of peace will probably be refused, as the Porte hopes for disunion among the Powers, and still believes that, in the last extremity, it will be defended by England.

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* A similar telegram was sent to Constantinople.
† Repeated to Embassies.



No. 210.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 3, 1876, 5·16 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government have learned with much regret that the Porte is likely to refuse the terms of peace which they have proposed. Warn the Porte that the alternative scheme of general reforms and a note is certain to be regarded as inadmissible, and that future terms of peace will undoubtedly be much more onerous, and will be pressed on the Porte very probably by force.

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No. 211.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 3, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 3, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

GENERAL SUMAROKOFF left this morning, but the strictest secrecy is still maintained respecting the answer which he carries to Livadia, and which he cannot deliver till Friday.

I am told he appears to be satisfied with the result of his mission, but he has not visited the foreign Ambassadors here.

To one of my colleagues, however, who met him last night accidentally, he said: "Do not speak of me but of us; union is strength."

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No. 212.

*Prince Bismarck to Baron von Brincken.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Baron von Brincken, October 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 3, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has officially communicated to-day the refusal of the peace proposals by the Porte.

Turkey is willing to concede by means of general reforms more than the Powers have asked for. To make concessions to single Provinces will bring the other Provinces to revolution.

The proposed Protocol cannot be signed.

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No. 213.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 3, 1876, 9 P.M.*

WITH reference to French Ambassador's opinions reported in a telegram received from your Lordship this evening, his Excellency said to me to-day that he now hears the scheme for a naval demonstration is most spoken of.

It is correct that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has reported that the Porte hopes for eventual protection of England, and that Halil Pasha has principally led it to do so.

Mr. H. Gastrell states, in a most confidential despatch forwarded by post to-day, that M. Tisza has said to him that Austria-Hungary may have to occupy Turkish provinces, not for herself, but to prevent an enemy doing so; but Baron Orczy has again said to me to-day, without stating that Russian proposal has been rejected, that Count Andrassy's policy has always been not to occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina either permantly or temporarily.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 214.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Berlin, October* 4, 1876, 9·30 A.M.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S opinion is still unknown, but there is reason to think that the Emperor William is favourable to proposed Russian occupation policy, and hopes the Emperor of Austria will agree. It is believed that such a measure would be well received by public opinion in Germany.

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No. 215.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 4, 1876, 9·35 A.M.

FANATIC Mussulmans having threatened the of the late German Consul at Salonica, German Government have ordered another ship of war from Smyrna to Salonica for protection of German subjects.

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No. 216.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4, 11·45 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 4, 1876, 9·52 A.M.

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated this morning to General Bülow the answer of the Porte to Her Majesty's Government rejecting Protocol and autonomy, but confirming general reforms. General Bülow received it *ad referendum*, and sent it on to the Emperor and Chancellor.

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No. 217.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 4, 1876, *noon.*

MR. MONSON, in a cyphered despatch to your Lordship, dated 28th ultimo, states:—

"Respecting Russian complicity in the insurrection and the war, I am informed by Signor Durando that the Private Secretary of Prince Nicholas told him, in the most positive terms, 'that if the Czar could inspect the letters which His Highness had received, His Imperial Majesty would send, not only M. Yonine, but Prince Gortchakow also, to Siberia.'

"I shall not fail to follow up this indication when I am in Montenegro."

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No. 218.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 4, 1876.

THE following is from Monson:—

"Prince Nicholas returned last night, and received me.

"His Highness was most cordial and frank, and kept me in a conversation more than half-an-hour. He particularly wished Her Majesty's Government to understand he is in no sense a 'lieutenant of the Czar.' He is anxious for peace, and displeased with the attitude of Servia. He trusts Her Majesty's Government will support such conditions of peace as will enable him to live on good terms with Turkey. He will tell me to-night his ideas as to the territorial concessions.

"I can see that His Highness would be greatly impressed if Her Majesty's Government would in some way accredit me, even provisionally, to him, and consequently strengthen my hands against Russian Agent who is preaching war."

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 219.

*Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4, 2·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 4, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

IN case of the inevitable passage of Russian troops through Roumania, contemplated by recent special mission of Russian General to Vienna, Roumania (is?) desirous of an immediate arrangement by the Guaranteeing Powers to secure her position as anxious to take no part in the conflict.

They communicate with St. Petersburgh in the same sense.

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No. 220.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1876, 5·24 P.M.

HAVE you carried out the instructions in my No. 572 of the 21st ultimo?

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No. 221.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4,)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October* 4, 1876.

GERMAN Government are anxious to know what Her Majesty's Government think of the Russian proposal to enforce an armistice on the belligerents.

Count Andrassy's intentions are not known here.

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No. 222.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1876, 7·15 P.M.

I HAVE told German Chargé d'Affaires that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to assent to urging upon the Porte an armistice of not less than a month.

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No. 223.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 4, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 4, 1876, 5·10 P.M.

BARON ORCZY informs me that your Lordship will have learnt yesterday from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that the Russian proposal for the occupation of the Turkish territory has been declined, and that Count Andrassy is of opinion that if it is necessary to enforce proposals of the Powers, a combined fleet should be sent to Constantinople for the purpose.

With respect to that measure I said to him it appeared to me that the Sultan could not expose himself to the risk of his subjects resenting his allowing a fleet to pass Dardanelles without resistance, and as the people of the capital believe the Straits cannot be forced, a hostile demonstration would probably be ineffectual, and the Powers would be obliged to carry out their menace, which might involve the loss of several vessels.

I suggested that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople is in a position, after Austria had declined to countenance occupation of Turkish territory, to claim in return the Porte's assent to an armistice which might prevent an European war; but he said that as the Turkish Ambassador already thinks Austria will be no party to coercive measures, the Porte might be confirmed in the opinion by Count Zichy taking credit for his Government opposing the occupation of the north Provinces.

Baron Orczy, however, told me confidentially that the Servians are so discouraged that they have again applied to Austria to promote peace; and he says that if the Turks

could be brought to believe it, their assent to an armistice might make an arrangement of the other questions at issue easy. But I could not induce him to say what Count Andrassy thinks of Turkish concessions or of their being communicated by a note; but the Turkish Ambassador has informed me in strict confidence that when he acquainted his Excellency with the objections of the Porte to the signing a Protocol and the wording of your Lordship's proposals, he answered that the Porte should in that case submit counter proposals to the consideration of the Powers.

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No. 224.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 4, 1876, 9·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram, nothing can be more distinct than the terms in which I warned the Porte that no assistance was to be expected from Her Majesty's Government against attack by Russia; and I have not seen nor had any communication with Halil Pasha for more than a month.

Public feeling here is, however, daily becoming more dangerous; and if the Turks, believing themselves abandoned by every one, give way to despair, it is impossible to say what the consequences may be.

Neither foreign occupation, nor naval demonstration, can be made without great danger.

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No. 225.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 4, 1876, midnight.*

THE Emperor of Russia has telegraphed for the Czarewitch; and His Imperial Highness leaves to-night for Livadia.

The departure of General Ignatiew for Constantinople has been postponed.

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No. 226.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5, 11·45 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 4, 1876, midnight.*

MONSON telegraphs:—"Prince Nicholas seems to meditate no hostilities unless attacked. Austria is pressing His Highness to sever his action from that of Servia, and to conclude separate peace if necessary. French Consul does the same. Shall I follow suit? Prince told me this morning that if England would help him to get the port of Spitza, and consequently facilities for the free importation of foreign goods, Montenegro would be eternally grateful. He scouted the idea of its becoming a Russian port.

I am decidedly of opinion that generous treatment of Montenegro is Turkey's best policy with a view to the future tranquillity of the Herzegovina.

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No. 227.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.†*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day to Lord A. Loftus, state to the Government to which you are accredited that Her Majesty's Government consider that the armistice should be followed immediately by a Conference, and have instructed Sir H. Elliot to intimate this to the Porte.

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* Repeated to Embassies.
† Also sent to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Lyons, and Mr. Malet.



No. 228.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 2·10 P.M.*

YOU may inform the Government to which you are accredited of the answer given to the Russian Government as reported in my telegram to Lord A. Loftus to-day.

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No. 229.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 2·24 P.M.*

IN the event of the terms of peace proposed by the Powers being formally refused, you will press the Porte, as an alternative, to grant an armistice for not less than a month, stating that, in case of refusal, you have instructions to leave Constantinople, as it will then be evident that further exertions on the part of Her Majesty's Government to save the Porte from ruin have become useless.

You will, however, not take this step without reference home.

You are at liberty to state that, on the conclusion of an armistice, it is intended that a Conference shall immediately follow.

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No. 230.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus:‡*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

COUNT Schouvaloff has communicated to me a telegram from the Emperor of Russia to the following effect:—

The Emperor proposes to the Guaranteeing Powers that further bloodshed should be immediately arrested by imposing an armistice or truce of six weeks on both parties so as to give the mediating Governments time to consider the means of definitively arranging the pending questions.

I informed Count Schouvaloff, after the meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, that Her Majesty's Government have decided to give their support to the proposal of an armistice of not less than a month, as the next step to be taken in the event of the rejection by Turkey of the proposed terms for basis of peace.

I have also told him that Her Majesty's Government have been unable to concur in the measures of occupation, and the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus, which had been previously suggested by Prince Gortchakow.

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No. 231.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following to Lord A. Loftus:—

[See No. 230.]

I have instructed Sir H. Elliot to press the Porte in the strongest manner to accede to an armistice, and you will join your colleagues, who will no doubt be similarly instructed in doing the same at Belgrade.

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* Repeated to Berlin, Rome, and Paris.
† Repeated to Embassies for confidential information, but not for communication.
‡ Repeated to Embassies.

No. 232.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1876, 5·8 P.M.

WHENEVER you make the communication to the Porte directed by my telegram of this day, you will deliver an English copy and a French translation of the telegram down to the word "useless."

It is desired that your manner and language should be very earnest, for the consequences of a refusal by Turkey of these last overtures are incalculable.

You may show this telegram also.

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No. 233.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 5*, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs says that he has not replied to the Russian proposal to break off relations with the Porte if the armistice is refused, and before deciding what to do he would be glad to know your Lordship's views; he appears to wish to continue to follow lead of England.

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No. 234.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 5*, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

SULTAN received me in an official audience to-day, and I presented my letters of credence.

I had asked also for a private audience, but, as I was too unwell to avail myself of it, His Majesty will receive me to-morrow or Saturday, when I shall execute instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 372.

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No. 235.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6*, 1876, 5 P.M.

YOU may tell Italian Government that Her Majesty's Government have expressed no opinion up to the present time as to the course to be pursued in case of the armistice being refused by Turkey.

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No. 236.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6*, 1876, 5·25 P.M.

ARE Her Majesty's Government to expect any further and definite answer to the proposals made to the Porte for the basis of peace?

The only answer we have had has been a telegram from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 30th ultimo, and communicated by Musurus on the 2nd instant.

Have you received any formal notice of the result of the meetings of the Grand Council?

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No. 237.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 5·40 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 6*, 1876, 3·25 P.M.

FOREIGN Minister says that fresh instances of mutilation of Servian wounded are reported from head-quarters, and expressed desire that the Consular body should send down some one to view these bodies. I have told him that distance is considerable, and that the Servian General might send to Turkish Commander-in-chief and to Sir A. Kemball, with a view to making representations. I have informed him that I should likewise report to Her Majesty's Government this affair.

Foreign Minister assures me he is most desirous of armistice, provided it is formally concluded as such matters ought to be.

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No. 238.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 6·45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 6*, 1876, 3·45 P.M.

I HAVE communicated the information in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, addressed to Lord A. Loftus. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to continue to support Sir H. Elliot.

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No. 239.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 6·45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 6*, 1876, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has information from General Menabrea, obtained from Count Schouvaloff, stating that your Lordship's answer was to the effect that you could only threaten to withdraw from further interference if the armistice were refused, as the interests of England did not permit (her to?) disengage herself from the course of events, and that you were disposed to favour the idea of a Conference. This is more complete than intelligence which I gave this morning, and the instruction of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to continue to support Sir H. Elliot is founded on idea that he is to propose a Conference.

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No. 240.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 6*, 1876.

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegrams to Lord A. Loftus of yesterday to General Bülow.

In thanking your Lordship for this communication, his Excellency said that he would at once inform Prince Bismarck, who is still in the country.

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No. 241.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Vienna, October 6*, 1876, 5·11 P.M.

I AM assured by one of my colleagues that the German Ambassador and the members of his Embassy speak openly of the expediency of Russia being allowed not only to occupy Bulgaria, but to advance to Constantinople, as the Emperor Alexander has disclaimed any intention of annexing Turkish territory to his Empire.

The Ambassador professes to me that he is without instructions on the subject, but

he lately asked me in a private conversation why England should object to the freedom of the Dardenelles and to European Turkey being replaced by several independent Christian States.

I hesitate to report this private conversation, but feel it necessary to do so in consequence of above-mentioned statement of my colleagues, which increases my apprehension that if the Ambassadors leave Constantinople, what I saw in 1827 will happen again, and that their departure will be followed a few days afterwards by a Russian declaration of war.

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No. 242.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 7·45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1876, 5·26 P.M.*

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Lord A. Loftus, and with your having instructed Sir H. Elliot to inform Porte that it is intended that the armistice asked for shall be followed by a Conference.

His Excellency said he cannot assent to take a part in a Conference until he knows how it is to be composed and the objects which it is proposed to obtain from it, and in the present state of things he can only anticipate its leading to abortive or dangerous results. Is Turkey, he asked, to be represented in the Conference, and if she is not is it probable that she will agree to carry out its decisions?

If therefore it is intended to propose an ultimatum to be submitted to Porte the Governments must be prepared to use force to impose it, and in the present temper of the Turkish Government and the excitement of the Russian nation, he fears whatever decision may be taken will inevitably lead to war.

On the general question he expressed strong opinions against expediency of asking for concessions which the Porte cannot grant, instead of being satisfied with moderate measures which could be easily carried out. It is clear, he said, that every step in advance beyond what is absolutely necessary, on the part of one of the Powers will be followed by a further one on the part of another Power, as England's adding new administrative institutions for Bulgaria to her demands on the Porte was immediately followed up by Russia proposing to occupy Bulgaria.

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No. 243.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1876, 5·27 P.M.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

"With reference to my telegram of this morning, Prince Nicholas says that in view of his difficult situation with his chiefs, who desire resumption of hostilities, he implores the Great Powers to bring about a definite armistice."

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No. 244.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, 8·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1876, 6·50 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson:—

"At the request of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Nicholas consents to remain on the defensive, and to victual fortress of Medun for three days.

"His Highness is resisting firmly pressure of certain Montenegrins to resume offensive. Russian Agent has suddenly become moderate.

"All my colleagues report to their Governments in favour of concessions to Montenegro."

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No. 245.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 6, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 6, 1876, 7·45 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs will send to Constantinople and Belgrade instructions to support energetically the demand for an armistice. He concurs in opinion that it should be followed by a Conference.

He appears glad that Her Majesty's Government have not agreed to occupation of territory, or the entrance of the fleets into the Bosphorus.

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No. 246.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

MR. JOCELYN has carried out the instruction contained in your Lordship's telegram of last evening, and he has given a copy of it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I trust to be well enough to-morrow to be received by the Sultan.

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No. 247.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 7, 1876, 11 P.M.*

IN conformity with your Lordship's instructions by telegraph, I informed to-day Minister for Foreign Affairs of the intended proposal of a Conference to follow immediately on acceptance of an armistice.

Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated confidentially that his Government declines proposal of occupation of Bosnia, but would participate in naval demonstration.

I cannot learn that any approval or disapproval of Russian occupation of Bulgaria was expressed.

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No. 248.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

UNDER present circumstances it might be desirable that we should have in the Danube the second gun-boat that we are entitled to station there.

The chairman of the Black Sea Railway Company has asked me for protection for British subjects at Kustendji, and a gun-boat near to Danube end of the railway might afford them some security if a necessity should arise.

I shall, however, await your Lordship's opinion before applying to the Admiral.

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No. 249.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7, 3·21 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

I HAVE sent following to Bucharest:—

"Porte has received telegram from Braila, dated yesterday, stating that Russia has concentrated 100,000 men on the frontier, and that she is in treaty with the Roumanian administration of railways for the transport of 3,000 men a-day into Moldavia.

"Please ascertain what truth there is in this report."

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No. 250.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 7, 2·8 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876, 11·40 A.M.*

IS it too late to separate the question of the conclusion of peace with the Principalities from that of the arrangements for the insurgent Provinces, which will cause the chief difficulty?

It would be very desirable if the preliminaries at least could be signed without waiting for Conference.

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No. 251.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 7, 1:40 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876, 11·45 A.M.*

AS telegraphed to your Lordship on the 2nd instant, the decisions of the General Council will be officially communicated by note to the Embassies.

This official communication is expected every moment, but your Lordship's demand for an armistice, which was communicated to Porte yesterday, may (possibly?) delay it.

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No. 252.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 7.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 7, 1876.*

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated to this Government a telegram declaring that the entrance of a fleet into the Dardanelles would be resisted.

I said to-day to Baron Orczy that I had heard from Rome that Russia has proposed a rupture of diplomatic relations with Porte if an armistice (is?) refused; and he answered no proposal of the kind had been made here, but the Italian Minister says that it was his Government who suggested that such a measure should be tried previous to the of a naval demonstration.

The arrival of the Hereditary Grand Duke at Livadia, and General Ignatiew's detention there, cause some anxiety here.

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No. 253.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 8.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876.*

INFORMATION received by the Porte that the Montenegrins have resumed the offensive, and that fighting is going on in the direction of Trebigné.

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No. 254.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 8.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876, 9·45 P.M.*

I HAVE just returned from a private audience of the Sultan, when I executed your Lordship's instructions of the 21st ultimo. I said to him that what had especially created general indignation was the fact of the Porte, which might be admitted at first to have been ignorant of the crimes committed, having done nothing to punish the guilty or to reward those who have prevented further excesses.

His Majesty promised that the measures of relief called for by your Lordship for the suffering Bulgarians shall be fully carried out and the guilty punished.

He said that a telegram had this morning been received from the Commissioners, stating that proceedings were now being taken against two of those chiefly implicated. His Majesty did not, however, name them.



I left him the names of those mentioned by your Lordship, with the exception of Hafiz Pasha, about whose conduct subsequent information made me feel somewhat doubtful.

I added other names to the list, and also gave the names of those who had endeavoured to protect the people from the Bashi-Bazouks.

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No. 255.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 8.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 7, 1876, 10 P.M.*

AT my audience to-day Sultan spoke of the ancient sympathies between Great Britain and Turkey, founded as he believed on their interests.

He could hardly understand how proposals which might have been suspected from Russia could have been made by Her Majesty's Government.

I said that in the position of affairs it was necessary for your Lordship to bring forward propositions to which you could secure the assent of the other Governments, and that if Her Majesty's Government would have been perhaps satisfied with less, His Majesty might be assured even it was only through their exertions that more onerous conditions had not been insisted upon by others.

I told him that if his Government rejected those conditions, and at the same time refused to agree to an armistice, I had been instructed to leave Constantinople, as Her Majesty's Government could do no more to avert the ruin which such a decision would call down upon the Empire.

He said he could give no answer about the armistice, as the Ministers were then in Council deliberating upon it.

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No. 256.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 8.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1876, noon.*

I HAVE received following from Bucharest:—

"Russian force in Bessarabia probably much exaggerated.

"Traffic Manager told me on Wednesday that the railway authorities had been sounded from Russia respecting capacity of rolling stock. Minister for Foreign Affairs says it is not true. Traffic Manager's statement has been written to your Excellency and to London."

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No. 257.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 8, 5·30 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1876, noon.*

ON the 2nd instant I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul at Bosna-Serai as follows:—

"Canon Liddon and a friend who went to Servia by the Bosnian frontier state that they saw examples of revolting cruelties practised by Turkish officers of regular army, who have impaled at all the military stations along the frontier men and women. Report as to truth of this statement."

On the 5th instant I received following reply:—

"Everything known here would make statement in your telegram of 2nd instant perfectly incredible but for name of your Excellency's informant. I will write of this by next post."

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No. 258.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 8, 5·30 P.M.)

*Therapia, October* 8, 1876, 12·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM a conversation that I have just had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs I have great expectation that the Porte will agree to an armistice.

I hope, also, that the answer of the Porte may be still so far modified as to be an acceptation rather than a rejection of the conditions of peace proposed by your Lordship.

Minister asked me whether, in the event of the conditions being accepted, a Conference would still be proposed.

I said that it had been talked of on the supposition of their rejection by the Porte, but I could not say what the decision of the Powers might be in the event of the Porte accepting the conditions as the basis of peace.

There is so much dread of a Conference that the hope of avoiding one by accepting the propositions has great influence on the Turkish Ministers.

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No. 259.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 8, 6 P.M.)

*Therapia, October* 8, 1876, 1·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs asked about the manner in which the armistice, if accepted, would be arranged. I said that the Powers having proposed to mediate for it, would, I imagined, through their own officers, concert (as to?) conditions and observance.

He asked what security there would be that the Servians would not occupy the positions from which the Turks withdraw.

I answered that I could say no more than that the Powers which proposed to arrange the armistice would feel themselves (under the?) obligation of rendering it equitable, and of seeing that it was properly observed by both parties, according to the rules of war.

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No. 260.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

*Foreign Office, October* 8, 1876, 10·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TELL Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had never contemplated a Conference without a basis by which the subject for consideration should be properly limited or defined.

A Conference appeared to them to be the best, if not the only, means of bringing about an agreement among the Powers as to the course to be pursued in the present situation, and to afford the best security against any action being taken by any individual Power without the concurrence of the others.

Its meeting would also afford time for the excitement in Russia to subside, and would be in accordance with usage on previous occasions when the concert of the Powers in regard to the affairs of Turkey was desired.

Her Majesty's Government therefore trust that Count Andrassy will not object in principle to a Conference, and they will gladly join with him in endeavouring to secure a satisfactory basis.

Above all they hope that the Austrian Government will give no encouragement to the Porte in persisting in an attitude of obdurate refusal.

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No. 261.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 8, 11 P.M.)

*Belgrade, October* 8, 1876, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)

NONE of my colleagues except French Consul have as yet received instructions to press acceptation of armistice at Belgrade.

I asked Sir H. Elliot to communicate to me decision of the Porte in this matter, as, if Turkish Government should refuse a formal armistice, details of which to be effective would have to be arranged between Commanders-in-chief of the two armies, any steps taken here would only make matters worse between Russia and the Porte.

Russian Representative here can obtain Prince Milan's consent whenever he chooses; and the last informal truce would no doubt have been prolonged (thus saving much useless bloodshed) if this Consul had thought proper to put in a favourable word for it with Prince Milan.

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No. 262.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 9, 4·26 P.M.)

*Therapia, October* 9, 1876, 1·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

GRAND VIZIER has sent in his resignation, but it is not yet known whether the Sultan has succeeded in inducing him to withdraw it.

If he should persist, and it should appear that he resigns rather than give way to the pressure put upon the Porte by the Powers, the consequences may be very serious.

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No. 263.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 9, *at night.*)

*St. Petersburgh, October* 9, 1876, 3·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE tone of Russian press is in favour of Russian occupation of Turkish territory. Military preparations are being made. On the 4th instant, sum of near 5,000,000*l.* sterling was applied for to Minister of Finance, military purposes; on the 6th instant, orders were received here to expend 1,000,000*l.* sterling on forage. Heavy guns have been sent to Otchakoff, Kertch, and Sebastopol.

In Servia Russian Volunteers amount to 10,000 men, exclusive of 2,000 Cossacks.

60,000 men are concentrated at Alexandropol on the Armenian frontier.

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No. 264.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 9.)

*Rome, October* 9, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Ambassador has informed Italian Government that his Government object to the presence of a Turkish Representative at the Conference.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has withheld opinion in replying to the Russian Ambassador, but tells me confidentially that he considers the pretension to exclude the Porte to be extraordinary, and (opposed to ?) the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

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No. 265.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 9, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the instructions sent to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to support Sir H. Elliot and to follow his example in threatening to quit Constantinople if the armistice is refused, are intended seriously or merely as a threat.

The Minister replied that certainly they are serious. He could not suppose that a threat of this nature could be made, unaccompanied by an intention to execute it.

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No. 266.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 8, 1876, 8·30 P.M.*

MONSON telegraphs to-day:—

"A battle took place yesterday between Montenegrins and the Turkish army under Mouktar Pasha, lasting till 7 P.M. Both sides retain original position. Montenegrin loss was 30 dead and over 70 wounded. They cut off 400 Turkish heads, and estimate enemy's loss at nearly 800.

"Prince's pacific disposition continues unabated."

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No. 267.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 8, 1876, 9 P.M.*

MONSON informs me that the other foreign Agents at Cettigné are all accredited in some form to the Prince of Montenegro, and are authorised to hold out a hope of his obtaining the rectification of the frontier, and he thinks that his position would be strengthened if he had some kind of credentials, and if he could state that Her Majesty's Government do not look unfavourably on His Highness' wish for territorial concession from the Porte.

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No. 268.

*Consul-General Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 9, 1876.*

THIS morning Turkish Commander-in-chief marched from Spuz in considerable force (towards?) plain of Bielopavlicka, where fighting is now going on.

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No. 269.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 9, 1876, 11 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday to Sir A. Buchanan, expressing the hope that Austria would give the Porte no encouragement to persist in an attitude of obdurate refusal, it may be right for me to inform your Lordship that the Austrian Ambassador here has exerted himself to the utmost in urging the Porte to accept conditions proposed by your Lordship, and to consent to an armistice.

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No. 270.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1876, 11 A.M.*

I AM informed that, at the earnest solicitation of the Sultan, the Grand Vizier has withdrawn his resignation.

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No. 271.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1876, 11 A.M.*

A DESPATCH from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, which I forward by messenger to-day, states that he learns from Poti that 150,000 troops are now ready for immediate action on the Russo-Turkish frontier, most of them being at Alexandropol.

Torpedoes are arriving at Odessa to be laid down in the bay.

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No. 272.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 10, 1876, 12·5 A.M.*

I LEARN that Minister of Finance left for Livadia this evening.

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No. 273.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 10, 1876.*

PRINCE BISMARCK has heard from Constantinople and Rome that Sir H. Elliot has been instructed to leave Constantinople if the armistice is refused.

Prince Bismarck says to General Bülow that it is very important he should know whether this is true, so as to form his policy accordingly.

Please let me know whether I may communicate your confidential telegram of the 5th to Sir H. Elliot to General Bülow or not.

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No. 274.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 10, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

GRAND Council has decided to agree to an armistice of five months. Their decision will be officially communicated to us to-morrow, and the guaranteeing Powers will, I believe, be invited to make all the arrangements for carrying it out. I have informed Consul-General at Belgrade.

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No. 275.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 10, 1876, 10·40 P.M.*

FROM secret information received from a military source I learn that Russian proposal to occupy Turkish provinces conjointly with Austria was first declined by the latter, but on the threat of Russia occupying alone with double forces, was unwillingly agreed to, but with what reservations or on what conditions I am not informed.

* Repeated to Embassies

Mobilization of troops in the four military circles of Kief, Kharkof, Odessa, and Caucasus is now preparing, and my informant stated that the preparations had gone so far that it will be difficult for Russia to withdraw.

Twelve millions of roubles have been actually spent in forage.

The visit of the Roumanian Minister to Livadia to compliment Emperor is also significant.

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No. 276.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876.

I HAVE pressed upon Count Beust and Count Schouvaloff the importance of their Governments inducing Servia to accept the armistice. Urge this also on Count Andrassy.

[To Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.]

Speak in the same sense to the Government to which you are accredited.

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No. 277.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 11, 1876, *noon.*

SERVIANS declare readiness to accept an armistice of one month or longer if offered in regular form.

Austrian and Russian Representatives have got instructions, but we cannot make formal proposal before hearing of acceptance by the Porte.

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No. 278.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Elliot's telegram repeated to you from Constantinople, use your best endeavours to induce the Servian Government to accept the armistice without raising difficulties.

I have pressed on Russian, Austrian, and other Governments the importance of inducing Servia to accept.

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No. 279.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1876, 6 P.M.

I CONGRATULATE you on the success of your efforts to bring about an armistice. It is mainly due to your ability and perseverance.

I have pressed on the Russian and Austrian Governments the importance of inducing Servia to accept the armistice.

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No. 280.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 11, 8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 11, 1876, 4·10 P.M.

MONSON telegraphs as follows to-day:—

"Prince Nicholas is very angry at the recent raid into the Herzegovina, which was made against his positive orders, and he has summoned the Commander of the expedition to cease hostilites.

* Sent also to Paris, Berlin, and Rome.
† Repeated to Embassies.



"The Montenegrin strategy is to entice Moukhtar Pasha to advance, and then to fall upon his flanks and rear.

"Austrian Military Agent considers Dervish Pasha's advance as well planned and threatening.

"His Highness is dejected and unwell. Much discontent here at the delay of armistice."

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No. 281.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1876.

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"Further accounts received yesterday evening by Prince report that battle near Spuz day before yesterday was a brilliant Montenegrin success. Dervish Pasha's whole army was engaged, and repulsed, with very heavy loss, by numerically far inferior Montenegrin force, which lost some 30 killed and 50 wounded. Turks' apparent object was to reach Danilograd. They have re-entered Spuz. His Highness expressed great satisfaction and admiration of courage of his troops."

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No. 282.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 12, 12·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1876, 11·45 A.M.

I HAVE asked the Porte to order cessation of hostilities while a formal armistice is arranged, if similar orders are given by the Servian Government.

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No. 283.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 12, 1·21 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 12, 1876, 12·10 P.M.

INTELLIGENCE of duration of proposed armistice got known here by private telegram before receipt of mine from Elliot. Matter was canvassed and first impression was unfavourable. I fear that chances of an acceptance are doubtful. The pretext will be terror of continuation of insecurity in neighbourhood of Turkish garrisons.

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No. 284.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 12, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 12, 1876, 11·35 A.M.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs will send immediately instructions to French Agent at Belgrade to urge the Servians to accept the armistice.

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No. 285.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 12, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 12, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs refuses to recommend Servia to accept the armistice of five months unless a better acquaintance with its terms alters his opinion of it, as he considers that it would be ruin to Servia and Montenegro, and that its proposal by the Porte aggravates the situation.

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No. 286.

*Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 12, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 12, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs states that one of the conditions of the armistice is that Servia should receive no aid during six months.

He requested me to say that should this be settled by the Guaranteeing Powers, Roumania would be disposed to act so as to prevent aid being sent under instructions from Guaranteeing Powers.

Of course it is assumed that Russia act loyally in a similar sense.

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No. 287.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 13.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires, although speaking as he said without instructions, has expressed himself against a long armistice.

He was reminded that a short time ago his Government had asked for one of three months, upon which he answered that circumstances had changed in the meantime, and he did not believe that his Government would be satisfied with present proposal.

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No. 288.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*[a]—(*Received October 13.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876, 11·15 P.M.*

BY an official note Porte declares that, accepting the proposal of the Powers to re-establish peace with Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and being ready to accept the decision of the Powers upon the conditions proposed by it, it does not hesitate to agree to conclusion of a regular armistice, Porte considering that it should be for six months from the beginning of October, and that it will depend on the mediating Powers to accelerate the suspension of hostilities by appointing as soon as possible their delegates to arrange the armistice on the spot.

Porte will immediately give the military authorities the necessary instructions, and the delegates of the Powers will have to come to an understanding with them and the Commander-in-Chief of the two Principalities upon the details, and upon the necessity of points now in possession of the Imperial troops not being re-occupied by the Servians.

Confiding in the equity of the mediating Powers, Porte hopes also that they will take measures to prevent during the armistice the introduction of arms and ammunition and the influx of volunteers to take part in the struggle, the continuance of which must lead to serious complications.

Porte further expresses its conviction that the Powers will make the Principalities understand that obligations imposed by the armistice will prevent them from giving (help?) to the insurgents in the neighbouring provinces.

I would (transmit?) to your Lordship (the?) last parts of this communication expressing hopes and wishes of Porte, but do not give them as the conditions of its acceptation of the armistice.

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No. 289.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*[a]—(*Received October 13.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1876.*

PORTE has communicated the proposed reforms by an official note, which it asks the Representatives to forward to their Governments. It recapitulates the law of the vilayets, never put fully into execution in the preceding reign.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.



Remedy for grievances is to be found in a new organization giving the Provincial Assemblies a fresh development and vigour.

A General Assembly, elected by the populations of the capital and the provinces, will be held at Constantinople, to vote the laws, the budget, and the taxes. A Second Chamber, of the nature of a Senate, with limited powers, will be nominated by the Porte.

In regard to provinces, the new law will accord the right of election on a large scale, and will comprise the reforms recommended for Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Provincial General Councils will watch over the execution of laws; and in order not to leave the Executive Authorities without control during the intervals of the sessions, elective Administrative Councils will restrain arbitrary official acts.

Inconsiderate levying of taxes will be reformed, and portion locally expended; administration of justice to be reorganized, and the whole provincial organization to be completed as far as possible. Engagements taken by the Porte by its note of the 13th February, respecting Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be maintained.

This new organization of all the provinces, giving such extended attributions to local Councils, will satisfy the want generally felt for a radical improvement, and offer sufficient guarantees for a good administration, without giving exceptional privileges, exciting fallacious hopes on the part of one side or undeserved complaints on the other hand, or increasing the unfortunate animosities between different classes of subjects in the Empire.

No mention is made of autonomy, and the above must be taken as a counter proposal.

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No. 290.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 13.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10 A.M.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

(Confidential.)

"Austrian Agent tells me that the Prince has decided to go to Vienna as soon as the armistice is settled to plead his own cause and to treat especially respecting the refugees. This intention is not to be officially communicated to Servia till the last moment. Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed that the Emperor will give His Highness a cordial reception as an independent Prince, but will not do the same by Prince Milan.

"Italian Agent informs me most confidentially that he, by orders of his Government, proposed last night to Prince Nicholas that he should negotiate independently of Servia, and that His Highness gave a favourable answer."

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No. 291.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 13.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10·30 A.M.*

MR. MONSON informs me that the Austrian Agent urges him to ask for leave of absence, in order that he may accompany the Prince of Montenegro to Vienna; and, as his presence at Ragusa is not likely to be required during the armistice, and he may be useful here from being on a confidential footing with His Highness, I hope your Lordship will see no objection to complying with his suggestion.

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No. 292.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 13, 10·30 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 13, 1876, 11 A.M.*

I HAVE the honour to point out to your Lordship that the note by which the Porte, declaring its readiness to accept decisions of Powers, in reply to conditions of

peace, agrees to an armistice, although of the same date as the note notifying the reforms, is of an earlier number in the series.

It is it, therefore, that should be considered as the answer to the proposals of the Powers.

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No. 293.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

WHEN is the Emperor expected to return to St. Petersburgh?

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No. 294.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

FROM conversation yesterday and to-day with Russian Ambassador I fear that his Government is indisposed to accept armistice, but nothing is decided.

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No. 295.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, you may instruct Mr. Monson to proceed to Vienna, so as to be there at the same time as the Prince, should His Highness carry out his intention of going.

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No. 296.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 5·25 P.M.

REPEAT telegram from Sir H. Elliot of October 12, forwarded to you to-day, commencing "By an official note" to Messrs. Monson and White, and instruct former to urge upon Prince of Montenegro that no difficulties should be thrown in the way of a prompt arrangement of the armistice.

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No. 297.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 5·45. P.M.

I HAVE requested the German Ambassador to press on his Government strongly the importance of the armistice being accepted by Russia. German influence may do much at the present moment. The Russian Government hesitates and seems disposed to refuse.

Refusal will involve serious danger to European peace.

You are desired to speak in the same sense to M. Bülow.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.



No. 298.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 13, 1876.

GERMAN Government have urged acceptance of armistice on Servia.

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No. 299.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 6·15 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has read to me a telegram from his Government, who accept Turkish proposal of five months' armistice, and will do all in their power to procure its acceptance by other States. They will also use their best efforts at Belgrade and with Prince of Montenegro, who they think likely to listen to Austrian advice.

Austrian Government cannot determine their course as to Conference without knowing programme. They consider exclusion of Turkish Representative contrary to Treaty of Paris. They hope, therefore, that questions of armistice and Conference may be kept separate, and armistice agreed to without being complicated by considerations as to future negotiations.

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No. 300.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*[a]—(*Received October* 12, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1876, 4 P.M.

I HAVE asked Baron Orczy yesterday whether Count Andrassy was not yet prepared to express an opinion respecting Conference, and as he professed not to know on what his Excellency was likely to decide, I said, as Her Majesty's Government must be expecting an answer to the communication I made to him on the 9th instant, I would call again to-day, when I hoped I might receive one either from Count Andrassy himself or through him.

Therefore, being too unwell to leave the house, I sent Mr. Edwardes to see Baron Orczy to-day, who said that Count Andrassy is expecting every hour to receive from Constantinople the conditions attached to the armistice, and an invitation from the Porte to urge it on the acceptance of the Servian Government; and that, as the conditions of the armistice may have some influence on the basis on which a Conference should meet, he thinks it best to await their arrival before expressing an opinion as to the expediency and objects of a Conference.

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No. 301.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.*†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, ask Italian Government what grounds they have for belief that it will be ruin to Servia and Montenegro to accept armistice, and urge upon them that the refusal of Italian Government may have disastrous consequences in showing divisions among the Powers, and encouraging the prosecution of the war by Servia, and the continuance of bloodshed with possible European complications. Her Majesty's Government trust, therefore, that on further consideration Italy will not withhold support to the action taken by England, Germany, Austria, and France.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

† Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

No. 302.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 13, 1876, 6·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs asks me to say that he hopes your Lordship will insist on the armistice being for two months.

He believes this will be the only way to maintain the union of the Powers.

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No. 303.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 13, 1876, 6·50 P.M.*

IT appeared at a meeting of the Russian Representatives to-day that the German Ambassador and Russian Chargé d'Affaires in communicating to their Governments the acceptance of the armistice had represented the Porte as having accompanied it with certain conditions. We pointed out that wishes and hopes were expressed by the Porte, but no conditions of acceptance laid down. They said that this had escaped their observation, but they promised to telegraph to their Governments to correct the inaccuracy of their first reports.

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No. 304.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 13, 1876, 7 P.M.*

MY colleagues who met at my house to-day decided that it might be well for us to suggest to our respective Governments that they should at once take steps for sending qualified officers with proper instructions for concerting the details of an armistice.

There are points which may require agreement between the Cabinets, but these need not necessarily be settled before the officers are despatched.

I should be glad to be informed, as soon as a decision is taken, whether it is proposed that a military Commission should be sent by each of the mediating Powers to both of the Principalities.

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No. 305.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 13, 1876, 8 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson:—

"War Party being instructed to advocate armistice, found the Prince this morning very reserved and averse to pledge himself, chiefly on account of proposed long duration.

"Russia and Servia seem to work upon His Highness against armistice.

"Austrian agent has telegraphed for instructions, and I venture to ask your Lordship's orders as to language I should use."

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No. 306.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 13, 1876, 10 P.M.*

THE subjoined figures have been sent to Monson:—

"I have forwarded to Lord Derby your telegram respecting difficulty of inducing Prince of Montenegro to consent to the armistice, but you may safely support Austrian Agent if he is instructed to advocate its acceptance, as Lord Derby has on the Russian and Austrian Governments, Servia being induced to do so.

"Prince Nicholas cannot advance his interests better than by complying with the wishes of Austria and England on the subject.



A telegram just received from Lord Derby informs me that the German Government have urged acceptance of armistice on Servia.

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No. 307.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Vienna, October 14, 1876, 2 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 688 of the 5th instant, the Turkish Ambassador tells me, in strict confidence, that it has been in consequence of Count Andrassy's advice sent through him to Grand Vizier, that the clause respecting entrance of Russians into Servia has been included among proposals of Porte attached to the communication accepting the armistice.

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No. 308.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, 3·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 14, 1876, 12·22 P.M.*

I HAVE spoken to M. Bülow in the same sense as your Lordship to Count Münster, urging strongly the importance of armistice being accepted by Russia. M. Bülow will submit the views of Her Majesty's Government at once to Emperor and to Chancellor. German Government will do all in their power to promote the maintenance of peace.

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No. 309.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*[*]

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, October 14, 1876.*

IN a conversation yesterday with the Russian Ambassador I took the opportunity of impressing in the strongest manner on Count Schouvaloff the danger to European peace that would ensue if this armistice were rejected altogether, or if its acceptance were coupled with impossible conditions.

I pointed out to his Excellency the change of opinion that had already manifested itself in England since the Russian project of an occupation of Bulgaria became known; and I warned him that, however strong might be the feeling of national indignation against Turkish cruelties, it would be superseded by a very different sentiment if it were once believed by the English nation that Constantinople was threatened. Rightly or wrongly, I said, the conclusion to which every one here would come would be that the rejection by Russia of the Turkish proposal indicated a fixed purpose of going to war; and I entreated him to omit no effort to make his Government understand the light in which this resolution would be viewed by the English people.

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No. 310.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, 4·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 14, 1876, 2·10 P.M.*

ACCORDING to present arrangements Emperor will return to St. Petersburgh on December 2nd.

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[*] Repeated to Embassies confidentially.

No. 311.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876, 6·50 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve instructions sent by you to Mr. Monson, as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

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No. 312.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876, 7·10 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of 13th, refer Mr. Monson to instructions sent yesterday. He should urge acceptance of armistice, to which Austria, Germany, and France have already assented. You may inform him confidentially that Italy is objecting to the length of armistice, and that Her Majesty's Government are strongly urging its acceptance on Italian Government.

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No. 313.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 14, 1876, 5·20 P.M.

THE Russian Government having expressed objections to accepting armistice for more than six weeks, it seemed to me uncertain, from Baron Orczy's language to-day, whether Count Andrassy will persist in an intention to accept the six months proposed by the Porte.

On his intimating that his Excellency had not expressed any opinion on the duration of the armistice, I said to him that I believed your Lordship to understand that the Turkish proposal would be supported by Germany, Austria, and France, as well as by England.

To this he answered that Count Beust had been merely instructed to express in general terms Count Andrassy's favourable opinion of the Turkish proposal, and the reasons by which it is supported, but that he is waiting to know the decision of Her Majesty's Government before taking on himself as to its entire acceptance.

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No. 314.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 14, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

THE following is the answer which Minister for Foreign Affairs makes to your Lordship's request:—

"He is willing to follow the example of England, France, Germany, and Austria, but he desires to submit to the Powers his views concerning the complications which a six months' armistice would inevitably create, especially as regards the Principalities and the insurgent provinces. As proof that he is favourable in principle to an armistice, he has named the persons who should act for Italy in regulating its military details."

Italian Ambassador is instructed to communicate these views to your Lordship.

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No. 315.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 14, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the views of the Russian Government, stating that it considers six weeks or two months



to be long enough for the armistice, and that it cannot use pressure to induce Servia and Montenegro to accept six months' armistice.

Minister for Foreign Affairs urgently deprecates the idea which he fears may be entertained, that in withholding up to this moment any recommendation to those Principalities to accept the proposed armistice, he is following the lead of Russia.

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No. 316.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876, 7 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of last night, Her Majesty's Government are unable to see any reason for reducing the armistice to two months, and have already joined the other Powers, as stated in telegram of yesterday, in accepting Turkish proposal. Urge most strongly on the Italian Government not to separate their action from that of Austria and the other Powers who have also already assented. By doing so they will incur the gravest responsibility. Remind Minister for Foreign Affairs of his previous assurances of desire to act with England, whose interests, like those of Italy, are in the preservation of European peace.

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No. 317.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.†*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1876, 7·40 P.M.

WITH reference to instruction to Her Majesty's Representatives, repeated to you, respecting proposal to appoint military delegates to arrange armistice, tell Italian Government what Her Majesty's Government have done on the suggestion of Sir H. Elliot and his colleagues, and express hope that they will join.

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No. 318.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.‡—(Received October* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 14, 1876, 10·39 P.M.

I HAVE urged on Imperial Government acceptance of armistice and importance of inducing Servia and Montenegro to do so.

Minister for Foreign Affairs says that Prince Gortchakow has not yet stated his decision. He considers the difficulties are as follows: the exclusion of the insurgents; the prohibition to Principalities receiving volunteers, arms, and ammunition, and of giving encouragement to insurgents.

I pointed out to him that these did not appear to be stated as conditions, but merely as hopes of the Porte.

The Russian press is strong against the armistice, and considers it inacceptable.

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No. 319.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.‡—(Received October* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 14, 1876, 11 P.M.

RUSSIAN Representative, M. Kartsoff, says that until he receives from the Emperor Alexander instructions to recommend Prince Milan to accept the long armistice of six months as proposed by the Porte, he has not any yet (*sic*). Without his efficient support no chance of acceptance.

Indeed, simply re-establishment of peace on the *status quo* basis at once would have far better chance, as the prolongation of state of uncertainty rallies to the same view of

* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.
† Repeated to St. Petersburgh. ‡ Repeated to Embassies.

hostility to an armistice numerous peacefully inclined persons as well as partisans of war who combine.

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No. 320.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 14, 1876, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, Vice-Consul at Kustendje reports increased apprehension of danger to British subjects at Tchenaraida, and I have consequently requested the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" to proceed there for their protection.

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No. 321.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 14, 1876, 11 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson:—

"I have communicated to Prince Nicholas substance of Sir H. Elliot's telegram of the 12th instant, and I have urged His Highness to accept the armistice. Prince Nicholas charged me to assure your Lordship of his own pacific disposition and desire to conclude the war, in spite of the advantages gained by Montenegro. He thinks the conditions of the armistice as proposed by the Porte perfectly acceptable, and that there is no reason why Servia should refuse them. He cannot give a final reply until he has consulted Prince Milan and considered the details proposed.

"I think there is every reason to believe that he will accept and use his influence to make Servia accept also.

"I was enabled to make great impression upon him by your Lordship's telegram, authorizing me to accompany him to Vienna. This intimation gave him very great pleasure.

"He again mentioned his anxiety that Her Majesty's Government should accredit an Agent to him.

"I am perfectly satisfied with the interview, which has apparently changed the position of affairs here."

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No. 322.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, October 15, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW'S private opinion is that Russia wants to get the armistice reduced to two months, with power of prolongation, if necessary, by the Guaranteeing Governments.

Italy supports Russia with hopes of territorial compensation in the future. M. Nigra is suspected of having spoken in this sense at St. Petersburgh.

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No. 323.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, October 15, 1876, 9·20 A.M.*

BATTLE was fought yesterday at Mosels, close to Spuz. Turks claim to have taken the enemy's positions.

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No. 324.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 11·50 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have addressed the following letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

"Dear Count Andrassy,

"As Baron Orczy seemed yesterday to have some doubt as to the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting expediency of accepting the Turkish proposal of an armistice for six months, I think it right to lose no time in confirming what I then said to his Excellency on the subject, by informing you that the English Chargé d'Affaires at Rome was yesterday instructed to state to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a suggestion of his Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government are unable to see any reason for reducing the armistice to two months, and have already joined other Powers in accepting the Turkish proposal.

"I should like to have some conversation with you on the subject, if you could receive me in the course of the day."

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No. 325.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, 3 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 15, 1876, noon.*

ITALIAN Government has named the Italian Military Attaché at Vienna to act in concert with Servians in arrangement of details of the armistice, and Signor Durando is to give his assistance to Montenegro.

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No. 326.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1876, 1 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government, as they usually do when they wish to be discourteous, sent *en clair* to the Chargé d'Affaires here a Circular telegram forwarded to their Representatives saying they must "insist" upon the armistice being for only a month or six weeks, the term to be prolonged if the progress of the negotiations shows a necessity for it.

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No. 327.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 4·15 P.M.*

BARON ORCZY'S language yesterday was apparently caused by his not knowing how far Count Andrassy might be influenced by the Russian objections to the armistice. Count Andrassy has, however, just told me himself that he maintains his acceptance of the proposal for the six months, which he has supported at Belgrade and Cettigné, leaving the wishes of the Porte as to the other points to be discussed hereafter; but he said he could not ascertain from Berlin whether the German Government had accepted.

I answered that it appeared from your Lordship's telegrams that Her Majesty's Government consider Russia and Italy to be the only Powers who have not yet done so.

He then said he has had no communication from Livadia, except Prince Gortchakow's telegram *en clair*, referred to in Lord Odo Russell's telegram of the 14th instant; but he learns from Count Beust that Count Schouvaloff has made a personal suggestion to your Lordship, that if Russia accepts Turkish proposal, her acceptance shall not deprive her of her own liberty of action, should she see cause to intervene before the termination of the six months.

Count Andrassy asks for explanations on this subject, and whether your Lordship would consider an acceptance of the armistice with such a reservation satisfactory, observing also that if one of the Powers made such reservations, the others would have equal right to do so. He had also received from Count Beust a report of your Lordship's warning to Count Schouvaloff, in which it is stated that the refusal of an armistice by Russia would be war. He asked me, therefore, against whom; and, treating Count Beust's statements as information, I said to him I presumed Turkey.

Would it not be expedient, therefore, that I should acquaint his Excellency with what you really did say?

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No. 328.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 15, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 15, 1876, 7 P.M.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs will telegraph in the (following?) sense to Belgrade and Montenegro:—

"At the request of England the other Powers appearing disposed accept the counter-proposals of the Porte, notwithstanding contrary (opinion?) of Russia, you will advise the Government of not to impede the benevolent intentions of Europe by an absolute refusal."

The Minister read to me a telegram from the Italian Ambassador at Berlin dated yesterday 4 P.M., stating that the German Government, like the Italian Government, withheld its final decision concerning the proposed armistice.

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No. 329.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 16.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram is from Monson:—

"I am informed that the war (party) is straining every nerve to persuade Prince Nicholas to reject armistice, and I am fearful that he is already much less pacific.

"Austrian Agent has received no instructions in answer to telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs."

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No. 330.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 16.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 15, 1876, 10·15 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following figures to Monson:—

"(Confidential.)

"Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to me to-day, for Lord Derby's information, that he maintains his intention to accept the armistice as proposed by the Porte, and that his Agents at Belgrade and Cettigné are instructed to support it.

"Prince of Montenegro will make a great mistake if he becomes a party to a Servian attempt to thwart the policy of Great Britain and Austria."

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No. 331.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 16.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 16, 1876, midnight.*

WITH reference to Monson's telegram, forwarded this evening, I sent him, on receiving your Lordship's telegram to-day, the following figures:—

"(Confidential.)

"From a telegram received this evening, it appears that the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is willing to follow the example of England, Austria, Germany,



and France in accepting the armistice, and has named officers to act for Italy in carrying out its military details, but that his Excellency proposes to acquaint the Governments with his objections to it. As all possible objections to armistice had doubtless been duly weighed (by?) Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers when they decided to accept it, they are not likely now to reconsider that decision."

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No. 332.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 16, 12·50 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 16, 1876, 10 A.M.*

I HEAR that Servian authorities give out to the correspondents as their intention to acquaint the Powers with determination to meet proposal of armistice with counter-project, if not with refusal.

It is believed that if the Powers have agreed with Russian Government to recommend this or another proposition as the final answer to the Servian application for their good offices, such a reply should be conveyed under identical instructions leaving Prince Milan no shadow of a doubt.

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No. 333.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 16, 2·30 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 16, 1876, noon.*

DUC DECAZES asks me to inform your Lordship in his opinion it would be good policy to make some concession to Russia with regard to duration of armistice.

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No. 334.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 16.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 16, 1876, 2 P.M.*

AS there was a probability of Count Andrassy leaving this morning for Pesth, I wrote to him last night acquainting him with the intention of the Italian Government to follow the example of England and Austria, &c. I have also seen him to-day when he said that he told the Russian Ambassador yesterday that he could see no reason for Austria declining the Turkish proposal, and that so far from its being prejudicial, the commercial classes here are most anxious that it should be accepted. I prepared him for a statement of the reasons of the Italian Government for considering a long armistice likely to cause complications in Principalities; he said that they could not influence his decision. He is not, however, confident as to the effect which Russian opposition may have at Berlin, from whence he can obtain no satisfactory assurance. I therefore repeated to him that your Lordship considered Germany had given her support to the Turkish proposal.

Instructions were sent yesterday to Belgrade and Montenegro urging the acceptance of the armistice by the Princes.

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No. 334*.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876, 3 P.M.*

INSTRUCTION to Sir H. Elliot of 5th instant was not communicated to any Power by Her Majesty's Government except to Germany, and intelligence of it must have reached Livadia and Rome from Constantinople after Sir H. Elliot had acted on it.

As there seems some confusion about the threatened withdrawal from Constantinople of Sir H. Elliot in the event of a refusal by the Porte to grant an armistice, it may be well to explain that no rupture of relations was contemplated.

It was thought better in that event that Sir H. Elliot should retire for a time, and take no part in the negotiation, but the Secretary of Embassy would have remained. The

step was intended to show displeasure on the part of England, but it would not have been a diplomatic rupture.

Her Majesty's Government are most anxious to act with the Government of Germany, and in the present situation of affairs that Government could do much in the interest of peace if Germany would exert its influence to procure Russian acceptance of the armistice. I should be glad to know, since Prince Bismarck seems to object to a Conference, what other plan for procuring an agreement among the Powers he would consider favourable.

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No. 335.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received October 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 16, 1876, 4 P.M.*

EMPEROR ALEXANDER has telegraphed to his Consul should not take any steps with a view to armistice here until Porte agrees to original proposal of one for six weeks.

All my colleagues agree with me that an attempt to recommend acceptance by Prince Milan would be perfectly useless, and that the Agent doing this would only weaken his influence and place himself at a disadvantage.

I shall, therefore, preserve great reservation, and abstain from isolated action.

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No. 336.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876, 8·30 P.M.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has communicated to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, dated Livadia, October 14, of which the following is a translation:—

"We do not think an armistice of six months necessary or favourable to the conclusion of a durable peace, which we desire. We cannot exercise pressure on Servia or Montenegro to make them consent to the uncertainty of their difficult situation being so prolonged. Lastly, we consider that the financial and commercial position of all Europe, already intolerable, would suffer still more from this delay. We must insist ('devons insister') on an armistice of a month or six weeks, the original proposal of England, subject to its being prolonged if the progress of negotiations shows it to be necessary."

I told Count Schouvaloff that I had received this communication with regret, and pointed out to him that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was for an armistice of "not less than a month."

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No. 337.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th instant, you may tell Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government accepted the Turkish proposal of a five months' armistice, and expressed hopes that it would be generally accepted by the other Powers.

You will have seen from my telegram of the 13th instant that Count Beust read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy stating his explicit acceptance of the five months' armistice.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 338.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 13th, you may tell Count Andrassy that Count Schouvaloff made no such personal suggestion as you mention respecting Russia reserving liberty of intervention, though something was said by him on the subject in the course of conversation.

You may also inform him of my language to Count Schouvaloff, as stated in my telegram to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th instant.

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No. 339.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—*(Received October 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 16, 1876.*

PRINCE BISMARCK has sent General Schweinitz to the Emperor at Baden to take His Majesty's commands before returning to his post at St. Petersburgh.

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No. 340.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876.*

YOU may inform Prince Bismarck confidentially of my language to Count Schouvaloff, reported in my telegram to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th instant.

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No. 341.

*Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.*—*(Received October 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, October 16, 1876.*

I AM assured at the Foreign Office here that the late proposal of the Russian Government to that of Austria for the joint military occupation of Bulgaria and Herzegovina was strongly supported by Prince Bismarck's Agent at Vienna, and they have every reason to suppose that the same support will have to be given to Russian projects there.

I report this fact on the chance that your Lordship may not be acquainted with it.

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No. 342.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876, 2·30 P.M.*

EXPRESS satisfaction at attention paid to representations of Her Majesty's Government, and trust Italian Government will continue to urge upon Servia and Montenegro not to oppose proposals made in the interest of peace.

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No. 343.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 16, 1876, 7·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING figures are from Monson :—

"Austrian Agent tells me that the Prince this morning assured him that he would raise no unreasonable objections to armistice, but he must reserve his definite answer till he had the written conditions, and had consulted Servia.

"I hope to have an audience this afternoon."

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No. 344.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1876, 9 P.M.*

AS it is very inconvenient for Her Majesty's Government to be without means of communicating directly through Her Majesty's Embassy with Prince Gortchakow, it would be desirable that you should go to Livadia if you could arrange to do so. Let me know if this would be agreeable to the Emperor and can be done.

You would be at liberty to take a Second Secretary with you.

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No. 345.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)*

(Telegraphic.)

(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October 17, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW has just told me that, in the absence of any news from Baden and from Varzin, he is not in a position to say whether the German Government will support England and Austria or Russia in the armistice question. His Excellency has given a similar reply to my colleagues.

General Schweinitz is expected to-morrow from Baden.

The impression of persons in office and at Court is that the German Emperor will do nothing in opposition to the Czar's wishes at present.

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No. 346.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 17, 1876, 8·5 P.M.*

IT is stated in letter from "Times" Correspondent at Therapia, dated 10th instant, and published in to-day's "Times," that Sadoullah Bey, President of the Bulgarian Commission, is "enjoying at Philippopoli the hospitality of Achmet Aga."

Is there any truth in this? Has not Achmet Aga been arrested?

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No. 347.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1876, 3 P.M.*

RUSSIAN press is violent and unanimous against the acceptance of the proposed Turkish armistice. There is much fanatic excitement and general feeling for war throughout the country.

Position of the Emperor and Government very embarrassing, and without compromise on the armistice question they may be forced by public opinion into action.

* Repeated to Embassies.



In order to maintain European concert, essential to the general peace, an armistice until the end of the year might be acceptable to all parties, and thus avert a Russian occupation of Turkish territory, which otherwise appears imminent. This period ought to suffice to prove the sincerity and efficacy of peace negotiations.

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No. 348.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 17, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

FROM Montenegro to-day :—

"Prince Nicholas charges me to state to Her Majesty's Government that he, for his part, accepts the armistice, and will give his formal answer as soon as he receives from Belgrade (the?) reply which he is expecting. But His Highness cannot consent to a longer term than two months, and that because all the advantages of a long armistice would be on the side of the Porte. He says that he knows that the Servian (Government?) have come to the same conclusion.

"I fear that it will be impossible to alter this resolution, as from military point of view His Highness' arguments are sound.

"I am assured, on excellent authority, that Russia will make the refusal of a shorter armistice a *casus belli*."

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No. 349.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 17, 1876, 4·40 P.M.*

I HAVE had a conversation with Count Andrassy since receiving your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday when I acquainted him with your answer to Prince Gortchakow's proposal of an armistice of six weeks as the original proposal of England.

He says he has received to-day a telegram from Count Beust reporting that Count Schouvaloff had telegraphed to Livadia that Her Majesty's Government consider themselves engaged by acceptance of Turkish proposal; but Count Schouvaloff presumed that, if a Power accepted the five months with conditions that in the event of the Porte refusing its assent to decisions of the Conference, the armistice would terminate *ipso facto*, such an expedient would be accepted.

Count Andrassy said he did not understand whether Count Schouvaloff had done this with your Lordship's sanction; but, however that may be, he said that if Her Majesty's Government assents to such a proposal he will do so likewise, though he is still ready to insist on Turkish proposal being accepted unconditionally.

He then told me that the Turks have offered to withdraw their troops from Servian territory if the armistice is accepted, on condition that the territory shall not be militarily occupied while it lasts.

It is essential, however, he said, with regard to these proposals that your Lordship should state clearly which Her Majesty's Government are disposed to maintain and recommend, in order that he may be able to act in concert with them.

His Excellency leaves for Pesth this evening, and if he remains there I shall go also, as communications through Baron Orczy lead to misunderstandings as evidenced by my telegram of the 14th.

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No. 350.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1876, 6·40 P.M.*

ACTING Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that Prince Bismarck, without giving any decided opinion, had, however, maintained the explanations of Prince Gortchakow against the long armistice.

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No. 351.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 17, 1876, 10 P.M.

THE evening papers report the arrival of a "feldjager" with letters from Livadia for the Emperor.

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No. 352.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 18, 1876, 4·50 P.M.

THE following translation of a telegram from Italian Representative at Cettigné, dated to-day, 10 A.M.:—

"Austria has telegraphed to its Agent to say to the Prince that it thanks him for his acceptance of the armistice in principle, and that it requests him to try to suspend his ulterior decisions, because England will make another proposition on the duration of the armistice."

Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me to express to your Lordship his great satisfaction at the last part of this telegram.

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No. 353.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have not agreed upon any fresh proposals with Count Schouvaloff. A Cabinet Council will be held to-morrow, after which I may be in a position to give further instructions.

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No. 354.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 18, 1876.

FROM Monson:—

"With reference to my telegram of this morning respecting Russian *casus belli*, I have reason to believe that my informant, French Agent, exaggerated the language used to him by the Prince.

"His Highness has telegraphed to Belgrade that he has placed himself in the hands of Mediating Powers, and declared to the foreign Agents here that he accepts the armistice, remarking only that he thinks six months too long."

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No. 355.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 18, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 18, 1876, 9·15 P.M.

I HAVE forwarded to Pesth confidentially, through Minister of Foreign Affairs, the substance of your Lordship's answer to my telegram of yesterday. Count Andrassy will probably return here with the Emperor before the end of the week.

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No. 356.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 18, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 18, 1876, 10 P.M.

IN forwarding these figures from Monson, I have heard nothing here of the alleged statement of the Austrian Agent in Montenegro.



Austrian Agent asked Prince Nicholas this morning what he knew of the attitude of Russia. His Highness declared that he did not believe in any immediate hostile intentions on her part, but thought that there was danger of affairs taking such a turn eventually as to force her to go to war.

My French and Italian colleagues persist that Russia has already decided upon a war policy.

The Prince is very grateful to Her Majesty's Government for their efforts to shorten the duration of the armistice, as announced to him by Austria. Servia tells him that she coincides in his views as to duration.

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No. 357.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 19, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, October* 19, 1876, 8·10 A.M.

COUNT MUNSTER has been instructed to communicate Prince Bismarck's answer to your Lordship. He had no objection to six months' armistice, but sees no reason to press it at the present juncture. He prefers to reserve his opinion, and to observe a benevolent neutrality until other Powers are agreed.

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No. 358.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October* 19, 2·27 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 19, 1876, 12·35 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has replied to my inquiry that I shall be welcome at Livadia.

I shall await your Lordship's order as to departure. Shall I await messenger on Sunday evening?

I propose taking messenger Drury with me.

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No. 359.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1876, 3·20 P.M.

THE German Ambassador communicated to me late last evening the following telegram from Berlin:—

"We have from the beginning of the Oriental crisis always had in view as principal object the maintenance of peace in Europe. In the interest of peace we have tried to prevent that the friendly Powers more directly interested in the East should separate, and we have always tried to avoid taking any decisive part for one of the Powers. As far as a general undertaking could be obtained we joined them and put our influence to their disposal; but we never went further than that. We cannot deviate from this line of conduct, and cannot take a leading part, which the natural position of Germany in the East would not justify, and which might endanger the peace of Europe.

Although we are of opinion that an armistice of six months appears to us to be acceptable, and that we would have wished Russia to accept it, we do not think that, taking into account the position we have held till now, we would be justified to exercise a pressure on the resolution of other Powers. An armistice, however, of six weeks, the longest term on which an agreement was obtained, and which is two weeks more than England originally proposed, might perhaps offer some chance for a solution."

I have called his attention to the passage stating that an armistice of six weeks is "two weeks more than England originally proposed;" and pointed out that the proposal of England in the telegram to Sir H. Elliot on the 1st of September was for an armistice of "not less than a month's duration;" and again on the 5th instant an armistice of "not less than a month."

Point this out also at Berlin.

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No. 360.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 3·32 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1876, 12·15 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW returned this morning from the Crimea in one of the Imperial yachts.

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No. 361.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19, 6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 19, 1876, 12·20 P.M.*

MR. BARING tells me that there is no truth whatever in the statement of the "Times" correspondent that Sadoullah Bey is enjoying the hospitality of Achmet Agha at Philippopoli. Achmet Agha, who is under arrest, while his trial is being carried on, does not live at Philippopoli, but belongs to a distant part of the district.

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No. 362.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 19, 1876, 3·24 P.M.*

M. DE BULOW has this day told the Turkish Ambassador that the German Government agree with the Russian Government in regard to the proposed armistice of six months, and adhere to the original demand made by England, supported by the other Powers.

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No. 363.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, October 19, 1876.*

MY Austrian colleague, who returned here the day before yesterday, tells me confidentially that he finds the German Government more inclined to support Russia than Austria at this [moment?], to his great regret.

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No. 364.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 19, 1876, 6·25 P.M.*

YOU may inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government, having accepted proposal of Porte for six months' armistice, will not make any new proposition; but if Porte is willing to reduce the length of the armistice, as desired by Russia, Her Majesty's Government will place no obstacles in the way.

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No. 365.

*Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 20, 1876.*

I ARRIVED yesterday.

The Prime Minister has submitted measures to the Chambers for the organization of the land and sea forces, including additional taxation and a loan of 10,000,000 of drachmas, in view of necessary preparations.

A Russian Agent named Volkoff, who came here shortly before the Crimean War, has lately arrived. I shall endeavour to ascertain his object.

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No. 366.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20, 1·45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 20, 1876, 11·15 A.M.*

THE erroneous report which I see has appeared in some of the English journals that an Aide-de-camp of the Emperor Alexander is at Vienna on a diplomatic mission, has arisen from the presence here of Count Wovencoff Dashkoff, with his family, on the way to Nice.

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No. 367.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20, 2 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 20, 1876, 12·45 P.M.*

MAY I inform Minister for Foreign Affairs of decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting armistice?

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No. 368.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21, 2·53 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 20, 1876, 10·40 P.M.*

I FIND, from General Ignatiew, that he conceives the duty of a Conference would be to concert the measures for giving effect to the administrative autonomy to be granted to the insurgent provinces, and the guarantees to be found for ensuring to the Christians their full exemption.

He pointed to appointment of an international Commission of Control for this purpose. The objections to this are very great.

Porte would not be likely to consent to it except under the pressure of material force, and the measure, if adopted, would, in my opinion, be more injurious than beneficial.

It must be applied to the Greek as well as to the Slav Provinces.

Much maladministration of provinces is the result of weakness of the Government, and this would be increased tenfold if the authorities are subject to a foreign Commission of Control. Candidates for office would place themselves under the patronage of one or other of the Commissioners, and a system of intrigue would soon arise, which would render government impossible.

It might be proper to intimate to the Porte that the engagement taken by the Powers by the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, not to interfere between the Sultan and his subjects, was taken on the faith of certain promises which have not been kept, and that till those promises are fulfilled the Powers will not consider themselves bound by it; but any attempt either to draw up a form of administration or directly to superintend its application would, I am convinced, lead to bad results.

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No. 369.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 20, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE informed Russian Ambassador of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to the following effect:—

We are not prepared, having accepted the Turkish proposal for a six months' armistice, to withdraw our acceptance or to make any new proposition.

We shall offer no objection to a shorter term if the Porte is willing to consent to it, but we cannot press the Porte to do so.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 370.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 20, 1876, 4·5 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs, through Baron Orczy, the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting the armistice. His Excellency said nothing has been received at the Ministry from Russia since circular proposing six weeks.

Although Austria has sent instructions to Belgrade and Montenegro, recommending the acceptance of the five months' armistice, she has not notified officially her own acceptance of it at Constantinople, and will doubtless therefore now be ready to adopt any concession which the Porte may make to Russia.

Baron Orczy thinks the Porte will accept the term of six weeks with the expression of a hope that the Powers will consent to its being prolonged if the preliminaries of peace are not concluded before its expiration.

He would not speak of the Emperor's letter, but he apparently hopes that Russian intervention may yet be prevented.

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No. 371.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby:—(Received October 20.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 20, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called and explained, by order of his Government, that the reports lately and still current as to a secret understanding between Austria and Russia were absolutely unfounded. The Austrian Government, Count Beust said, were entirely agreed with that of Her Majesty on the question of the armistice, and there had been no change in their views.

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No. 372.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 20, 1876, 4·30 P.M.*

YOU may inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs of decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting armistice.

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No. 373.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received October 20, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 20, 1876.*

I HAVE just seen General Ignatiew, whose language is very guarded.

He says he has no proposal to make, as his Government adheres to the English demand of an armistice for a month or six weeks, and he has only to hear what the Turks say.

I said that Her Majesty's Government consider that the Porte by agreeing to an armistice of six months had accepted the proposal, which was for one of not less than one month, and that they would make no further proposal.

He said it was preposterous to let a question of peace or war stand over for six months, and that the German Government were of this opinion, having at once declared such an armistice to be utterly absurd. I answered that upon that point my information differed from his.

He said that this was owing to a misapprehension of Lord Odo Russell, for which your Lordship had expressed regret to Prince Gortchakow. I said that I did not refer to the report of Lord Odo Russell, but to a despatch which the German Ambassador had communicated to your Lordship in which it was stated that the German Government

* Identic telegrams were sent to Mr. Malet, Sir H. Elliot, Lord A. Loftus, and Lord Odo Russell.
† Repeated to Embassies.



considered a six months' armistice as acceptable, and regretted that all the other Governments did not take the same view of it. He adhered, however, to his statement.

My impression—but it is only an impression—is that he will ask the Porte its intentions with regard to what he will call the English proposal for a short armistice, and that upon receiving as an answer that it cannot be complied with, he will signify the steps which his Government will take in consequence.

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No. 374.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 21, 1 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 20, 1876, 10·5 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW speaking of Conference says that, although your Lordship had proposed that it should be held at Constantinople, the Russian Government wished it to take place elsewhere, and that he himself was strongly of opinion that this would not be the best place.

I greatly doubt his sincerity; but I myself see many objections, very different from those which could influence him, against Conference at Constantinople.

German Ambassador is absolutely subservient to General Ignatiew. French Ambassador's feelings against Turks would make him lean towards everything calculated to humiliate and cripple them, and the equivocal attitude of Italian Government makes it impossible to calculate on the support of their Minister. I should thus have the prospect of being left alone in most matters on which a difference of opinion arose.

I told General Ignatiew that I was not aware of your Lordship having suggested a Conference at Constantinople, or one from which Turks were to be excluded, as the Russian Government seemed to wish.

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No. 375.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21.)*

*Vienna, October 21, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

INTELLIGENCE has been received here of the capitulation of Medun.

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No. 376.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 21, 1876, 2·20 P.M.*

IMPERIAL Ministry published immediately my intended departure for Livadia, and it has produced a good impression.

Please answer my previous telegram as to my departure.

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No. 377.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21, 3·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 21, 1876, 12·55 P.M.*

SURRENDER of Medun reported from Montenegro.

Turkish Commander-in-chief has withdrawn his head-quarters from territory of Montenegro near Spuz to Podgoritza.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 378.

*Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 21, 1876.*

IN addition to proposed loan of 10,000,000 fr. mentioned in my telegram of yesterday, the Prime Minister informed the Chamber that he was endeavouring to raise a loan of 50,000,000 fr., to be employed exclusively in the purchase of ships and war materials, and to be kept apart from the Budget.

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No. 379.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

I APPROVE your language to General Ignatiew respecting the armistice as reported in your telegram of yesterday's date.

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No. 380.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 21, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 21, 1876.*

I HAVE communicated to Duc Decazes the decision of Her Majesty's Government respecting the armistice.

He says that he himself has never sent any instruction to Constantinople in answer to Turkish proposal of armistice of six months.

He desires to ask you what will be the attitude of England if Russia actually invades Turkey.

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No. 381.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 21, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 21, 1876.*

IN the event of Russia threatening an occupation of a Turkish province or any other act of hostility, would it not be advisable for me to advise Porte to appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris?

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No. 382.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 21, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 21, 1876.*

WHEN it appeared that the Prince of Montenegro was disposed to accept the armistice, the Austrian Ambassador and myself recommended the Porte to profit by the jealousy caused in Montenegro by the late proclamation of Prince Milan as King of the Servians, and to endeavour to treat separately with him for peace.

I have now received a message from the Porte showing an anxiety to negotiate peace with Montenegro, and asking whether it could be facilitated through a British Agent.

I returned no answer, and with the prospect of active Russian support to the Slavonic cause, it may be hopeless to attempt to detach Montenegro from Servia; but Monson might perhaps be directed to sound Prince Nicholas.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 383.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 22, 1876, 2·30 P.M.*

YOU may proceed to Livadia as soon as you can conveniently do so. Report what cyphers you take with you and what arrangements should be made as to messengers.

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No. 384.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 22, 1876.*

FROM Monson, dated yesterday:—

"The evacuation by the Turks of the posts recently occupied by them before Spuz and the capitulation of Medun have produced a great sensation here. It is possible that the warlike spirit will be still further aroused in Montenegro and the flame of revolt kindled in the neighbouring tribes of Albania, not to speak of complications elsewhere. It is clear, as I have repeatedly pointed out, that the Turkish arms can do nothing against Montenegro. My colleagues and I are therefore of opinion that, in the interest of the Porte itself, and to stop the effusion of blood and the ruin of the country, it is urgent that a regular armistice, even of short duration, should be concluded at once, in order that negotiations for a definite peace may be commenced without delay. The Austrian, French, and Italian Agents telegraph to their respective Governments in this sense."

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No. 385.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1876.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has inquired by telegraph when to expect me, and seems anxious for my arrival.

Delay in my departure would be ungracious after a message from Livadia, and possibly misinterpreted by the public. I therefore leave to-night, and shall arrive at Yalta on Thursday morning.

Messenger Drury will follow me with the despatches which arrived by messenger.

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No. 386.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 22, 1876.*

SOME days ago, speaking for myself, and, as I said, without instructions, I strongly recommended the Porte to express itself ready to accept the shorter armistice demanded by Russia, provided it was coupled with an engagement that it should be extended for a similar term if the negotiations were not concluded before that period expired.

The advice has been acted upon.

When General Ignatiew called upon the Grand Vizier to-day, his Highness told him that he would agree to an armistice of six weeks on condition that if the negotiations were not ended by that time it should be renewed for a similar term, without shortness being persisted in on either side, and again for two months if the second period passed without result.

General Ignatiew said that he would take the proposal into consideration.

It appears impossible for the Porte to do more.

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No. 387.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876, 2·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant, Her Majesty's Government are unable at present to pronounce an opinion on the very grave question referred to in the Due Decazes' inquiry.

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No. 388.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 23, 1876, 3 P.M.*

THE Italian Minister at Constantinople telegraphs, under date of the day before yesterday, that General Ignatiew called upon him after seeing the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and said he was in hopes the Porte would accept six weeks' armistice.

The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs declares most positively that Italy has no engagement with any foreign Power, and only seeks the maintenance of peace.

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No. 389.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*[1]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876, 5·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 20th, I have never agreed to, much less suggested, any Conference from which the Porte should be excluded. I have mentioned Constantinople as the place where it might be held, but that question remains open. I have not pledged Her Majesty's Government to the selection of any particular place.

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No. 390.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*[1]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st, I doubt whether Montenegro would conclude a separate peace, but before considering any instructions to Mr. Monson it would be necessary to know what territorial concessions the Porte would be prepared to make to Montenegro.

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No. 391.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 23, 1876.*

I AWAITED messenger last night, and shall leave to-night. Shall arrive at Yalta on Friday. Shortest line for messenger is between Cracow and Odessa. Boats leave Odessa on Mondays and Thursdays at 2 o'clock. Perhaps combination with Vienna messenger desirable.

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No. 392.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 23, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

"Prince Nicholas summoned the foreign Agents this afternoon, and requested us to

[1] Repeated to Embassies.



telegraph to our respective Governments that, in reliance on Servia, he would accept the armistice for six weeks only. He referred to the military reasons for this decision, especially the capitulation of Medun and the retreat of Dervish Pasha, which will enable him to recommence the offensive.

"His Highness intimated that, if the armistice is not arranged by the end of October, so as to suspend hostilities till the 15th of December, he shall consider negotiations at an end, and make his military preparations accordingly.

"He can now send nine more battalions to the Herzegovina."

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No. 393.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 23, 1876.*

PRINCE JOHN GHIKA is expected here on his way to England, charged with a mission to Her Majesty's Government.

I am told by the Roumanian Agent here that he is to inquire whether the Guaranteeing Powers will support Roumanian Army in resisting the entrance of Russian troops into the Principalities, as if the country is to defend itself it may have to make the best terms it can with Russia.

He says Roumania could add 60,000 good troops to an Austrian force acting against Russia.

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No. 394.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*[1]*—(Received October 24, 12·29 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, October 23, 1876, 7·50 P.M.*

I HAVE seen Minister of Finance, who returned yesterday from Livadia.

He says that present position cannot continue without danger both internally and externally. Russia wants no territorial acquisition, but she must insist on obtaining for the three provinces the terms proposed to the Porte by your Lordship, not in words, but as facts.

The position admits of no further delay. Roumania and Greece are moving, and if present concessions by the Porte are refused and armistice or war extended, greater concessions will be later exacted.

Porte may possibly satisfy the present Russian exigencies by accepting the Protocol as suggested by your Lordship, and granting an armistice of two months. If the Porte declines, Russian military action is inevitable.

Preparations for war are actively making here.

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No. 395.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*[1]*—(Received October 24, 10·55 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 23, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE asked Minister for Foreign Affairs whether General Ignatiew had given him any intimation of what his Government would expect with regard to the insurgent provinces.

His Excellency replied that the General said that special arrangements would be required in favour of those provinces; that the Porte would be free afterwards to apply those arrangements to the other parts of the Empire, but that a general measure applicable to all could not be accepted.

If this is insisted upon, it will be a direct encouragement to insurrection.

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[1] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 396.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*[a]—(*Received October 24.*)

*Therapia, October 23, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW tells people here that he expects the question of the armistice to be arranged, but that his instructions with regard to the Christians of the revolted provinces are imperative, and that the Emperor is determined to insist on autonomy, whatever the other Powers may do.

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No. 397.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 24.*)

*Therapia, October 24, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

A CONSPIRACY has been discovered against the Ministers, who are supposed to be most ready to favour granting equal rights to the Christians.

Some of those engaged in it were persons of a certain position among the Ulemá, one of them having once been posted (?) up as Sheik ul Islam.

About ten have been arrested and exiled.

They are partisans of Mahmoud Pasha, late Grand Vizier, and, according to one version, they proposed to dethrone the Sultan and replace him by the son of Abdul Aziz.

They proposed forcibly to seize the flag of the Prophet; a religious war would have ensued, undoubtedly.

That such a conspiracy should have been formed proves the necessity for caution in pressing on the Porte the question of reforms.

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No. 398.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*[a]—(*Received October 24, 2·30 P.M.*)

*Therapia, October 24, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

IN answer to proposal of the Grand Vizier about armistice, General Ignatiew says that he would accept such an arrangement with the following wording respecting its prolongation:—

"If, within the term of six weeks, the desired result is not obtained, the Powers will agree ('conviendraient') to a renewal of it for six more weeks, 'quittes,' to a renewal of it a third time for two months if the necessity for it is recognised."

Porte wishes both parties to be bound to prolongation of armistice if negotiations are not completed, and fears that General Ignatiew's form would expose it to the chance of being told at the expiration of the first term that Servia refused to follow advice of the Powers to prolongation.

As it will be impossible for the Turkish troops to remain long in their present positions, it will be better for the Porte that the armistice, as proposed by General Ignatiew, should be accepted before it has to withdraw them, and I have expressed this as my personal opinion. The success of the Montenegrins also renders it very desirable.

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No. 399.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 24, 4·20 P.M.*)

*Therapia, October 24, 1876, 1·45 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL at Sulina says that it is reported there that twenty Danubian pilots have been engaged by the Russian authorities.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.



No. 400.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 25.*)

*Buda-Pesth, October 24, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

IN the opinion of Count Andrassy the first step to be taken in a negotiation between the Porte and Montenegro for a separate peace should be for the Prince to state what he claims. He considers that concessions of territory on the side of Albania might be made to His Highness without inconvenience, but that were a port granted to him, notwithstanding his present annoyance at Russian money going principally to Servia, his old relations with St. Petersburgh would be re-established and his port would become virtually a Russian one.

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No. 401.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 25.*)

*Buda-Pesth, October 24, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY doubts the news of the proposal of the Porte respecting the armistice being accepted by Russia, but does not understand Russian objection to a long one, as he does not believe she is yet ready for war. It is of little importance, however, whether the armistice is long or short, as she can always find a pretext to begin war if she is determined to do so.

He spoke with some bitterness to-day of the vacillation of France and Italy on this question, and said that all effective action is impossible while no Power knows what is to be expected from another. I therefore said that he had better begin by telling me what he would do if a Russian army entered Bulgaria; and he answered I must be satisfied by his having already stated that, whatever happens, he is determined to defend Austro-Hungarian interests. He has endeavoured, he said, to stop provocative articles in the press here against Russia; but he has stated plainly to what he will object, as prejudicial to the interests of his country; and with regard to the reforms, he is still of opinion that the demands on the Porte should be moderate, but enforced if necessary. He is quite ignorant, however, he said, of what England intends, and as to how far her future policy may be influenced by recent popular accusations.

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No. 402.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 25.*)

*Vienna, October 25, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS has invited the foreign Agents to be present at a *Te Deum* this morning in honour of the recent victories. I do not intend to accompany my colleagues to the ceremony, believing that Her Majesty's Government would disapprove my taking part in it.

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No. 403.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

*Foreign Office, October 26, 1876, 2·25 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram dated 11·30 A.M., October 24, received.

I approve your advice to Porte to accept armistice as proposed by General Ignatiew.

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No. 404.

*Mr. Daria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 25, 1876, 1 P.M.*

CAPTAIN WELLESLEY reports following:—

"Grand Duke Nicholas has been summoned to Livadia.

"800 torpedoes sent to Odessa and 500 to Sebastopol.

"General Todleben at Odessa."

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No. 405.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 25, 1876.*

ITALIAN Government are strongly opposed to accepting a general measure of reform instead of one confined to the insurgent Provinces, as suggested by Her Majesty's Government under guarantee of a Protocol. It would, in their opinion, be calculated to extend Russian influence. They are equally decided against the exclusion of the Turks from the Conference, which they would consider contrary to the Treaty of Paris, and an act of injustice.

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No. 406.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW presented his credentials yesterday at an official audience.

I am informed that he made a speech, in which he spoke of the interest taken by the Emperor of Russia in many millions of the Sultan's subjects who were of the same religion as himself. His Imperial Majesty had been much moved by learning the sufferings to which they were exposed, and expected that measures would be taken to render a renewal of them impossible.

General Ignatiew is to have a private audience on Saturday at the request, as he tells me, of the Sultan.

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No. 407.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 26, 1876, 2·40 P.M.*

INFORM Monson that he was right in declining to attend *Te Deum*.

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No. 408.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 26, 3:28 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 26, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

INFORMATION has been received of the assassination of the Turkish Consul-General and his wife at Tiflis.

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No. 409.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 26, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Therapia, October 26, 1876, 3·25 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW has told one of our colleagues that the demands of Russia are that Turkey should accept an armistice of six weeks without any engagement that

* Repeated to Embassies.



Servia should renew it if she thought it inconvenient; autonomy for the three Provinces and a Conference at Constantinople from which Turks are to be excluded.

If the Porte refuses, Russia is prepared to declare war with Turkey.

My colleague observed that perhaps Turkey might not be left alone, and spoke of the feeling that is being roused in England against Russia.

General Ignatiew answered nothing was to be feared from England; that (British Ambassador?) was mystified by his Government as was often the case, but that he had himself been in direct correspondence with your Lordship from Livadia and had ascertained that the British and Russian Governments were agreed upon all points.

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No. 410.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pest, October 26, 1876.*

COUNT ANDRASSY went to Vienna yesterday to arrange with the Austrian Government the answer to be given to a question in the Reichsrath, as to the present position of Austria-Hungary in the Eastern question. He was to return to-day, but will not do so until to-morrow; and, as I go to Vienna to-morrow to receive the messenger on Saturday morning, I shall not see him till my return. I have, however, acquainted the Emperor with the substance of your Lordship's telegrams of the 24th and 25th instant. His Majesty continues to place confidence in the pacific intentions of the Emperor of Russia, but is fully aware of the domestic dangers which public opinion is creating in Russia. He hopes, however, if an armistice is arranged, that the other Powers may be able to control the interpretation which Russia intends to give to the term administrative autonomy. His Majesty will spend next week in Vienna, and Count Andrassy may possibly go, during His Majesty's absence, for some days to his estates.

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No. 411.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 26, 1876.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated to-day:—

"Austrian Agent has been assured by the Prince that Russia has not sent any anti-pacific advice to Montenegro. His Highness has, however, recently received 6000*l.* from Servia and Russia, and the loan of 4,000*l.* seems to be still pending."

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No. 412.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 26, 1876.*

IT is believed that proclamation of Servian and also Roumanian independence is seriously contemplated; assumption of royal titles more doubtful, though probable, especially as it is said that Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has been induced by Russia to waive his objections to some such arrangement.

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No. 413.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876, 3·12 P.M.*

YOU may tell the Porte that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to send officers to arrange armistice as soon as they are informed that their services are required.

It is agreed with the War Office that Sir A. Kemball should act at the Turkish head-quarters, and Major Gonne go to Servia.

* Repeated to Embassies.

Captain Burnaby of the Royal Horse Guards will go to Montenegro.

Will Sir A. Kemball's presence be enough, or will another officer be required to proceed to the Turkish force on the Montenegrin frontier?

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No. 414.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 27, 3·35 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 27, 1876, 1·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs told me that he had called on the Turkish Ambassador to express regret of the Russian Government at the assassination of the Turkish Consul at Tiflis and his wife. He says that it is not to be attributed to political motives.

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No. 415.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received October 27.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 27, 1876.*

GERMAN Ambassador, who returned here on Wednesday, leaves to-night for Livadia. Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me his mission is of a conciliatory nature in the interest of peace.

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No. 416.

*The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies abroad.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876, 4·40 P.M.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF informed me yesterday afternoon that General Ignatiew was only demanding of the Porte an armistice of six weeks to two months, the prolongation of which should depend on the necessities of the negotiations, and on an understanding between the Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers.

The Porte was not required by Russia to pronounce an opinion beforehand on systems of autonomy to be granted to disturbed provinces.

These last, he said, would be defined at the Conference of the Six Powers.

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No. 417.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 27, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day Count Schouvaloff has given to me this afternoon another memorandum containing the following statement:—

General Ignatiew did not require the Porte to pronounce itself beforehand on the question of the systems of "local autonomy" for Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, but had confined himself to insisting on an armistice of six weeks to two months followed by a Conference.

The armistice might be prolonged if the course of the negotiations required it, and the Porte would come to an understanding with the Guaranteeing Powers as to the term of this prolongation.

In this manner the question of the basis of peace would be reserved until the meeting of a Conference.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 418.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 27, at night.*)

*Vienna, October 27, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to a question put to the Austrian Government in the Reichsrath, the Prime Minister answered to-day:—"The policy of the Government being to maintain peace, is free from all thoughts of conquest, and they will in all eventualities endeavour to preserve peace. At the same time they must keep in view that their efforts to do so find their natural limits at the point at which the security and interests of the Monarchy must be defended, otherwise they would not obtain their peaceful object. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will therefore not be diverted, either by warlike manifestations or declarations of a contrary character, which might be prejudicial to the dignity of the Monarchy, from adhering firmly to these principles." In answer to a second question he said: "The policy of the Government is not to be guided by the interests of particular races, but by those of the whole Monarchy; and, if the interests of the Monarchy are maintained, those of the different parts will be equally so. The policy of Austria has hitherto been directed to the maintenance of European peace and the amelioration of the condition of the Christian subjects of the Porte; and this policy will be adhered to, as promoting the interests of the whole Monarchy.

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No. 419.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 28.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 28, 1876, 1·15 P.M.*

IN answer to your telegram of yesterday, I should say that Sir A. Kemball could not be employed about the armistice in both Servia and Montenegro, and that a second officer should be sent.

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No. 420.

*Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 28.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, October 28, 1876.*

MOUKHTAR PASHA is reported to be surrounded, and in a most critical position.

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No. 421.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 28, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 28, 1876, 6·20 P.M.*

I ACQUAINTED Count Andrassy, when I saw him at Pesth, with the language of the Roumanian Agent, which I reported to your Lordship in a telegram, dated 23rd instant, and his Excellency said that the Agent had not said so much to Baron Orczy. Having, however, to-day asked the Baron what he did say, his statements to him appear to have been nearly identic with those he made to me, with the addition that the object of his Government in retiring into Little Wallachia, if not supported by England and Austria, would be to save its war material from Russia, which the Russian army in 1854 treated as its own. He did not, however, appear to have asked for an answer as to whether or not Roumania might expect Austrian support.

Prince Ghika, who will leave for London this evening, has not seen Count Andrassy.

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No. 422.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October 28, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 28, 1876, 6·10 P.M.*

I HAVE spoken to Baron Orczy of the report at Belgrade mentioned in a telegram from your Lordship dated yesterday, that the proclamation of Servia and

Roumanian independence is contemplated, with the probable assumption of the Royal titles, to which Count Andrassy was said to have waived his objections. His Excellency answered that the Austro-Hungarian Agent was instructed on the proclamation of Prince Milan as King by the army, to state that Austria-Hungary would never recognize a Servian Kingdom, and the Government has not changed its views on this point.

The Austrian Agent had, however, reported that the recognition of Servian independence would be looked on at Belgrade as some compensation for a peace on the basis of the *status quo*, but such a pretension, Baron Orczy said, could not be maintained on that basis, and no encouragement has been given to it from Vienna. Roumania and Servia are, he believes, jealously watching each other; if one declares itself independent, the other, probably, will do so likewise.

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No. 423.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 28, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

ITALIAN Government are quite mistaken in supposing that Russian influence would be increased by including the Greek provinces in a general measure of reform.

If this were likely to be the case, Russia would not be so much opposed to it.

Nothing will increase her influence so much as privileges given at her instance to the Slaves which are denied to the Greeks, who would at once begin an agitation for similar benefits.

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No. 424.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 29, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

I UNDERSTAND from my colleagues that their Governments would send only one military officer to make arrangements about the armistice with Servia and one for that (purpose to?) Montenegro, instead of having two in each case as proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

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No. 425.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, October 29, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this morning. He told me he considered the armistice question as almost arranged, and he is anxious that the Conference should be organised immediately.

He mentioned the compromise on the subject of the participation of Turkish Representative, by which the Representatives of the Six Powers would meet together for deliberation, and, when agreed, will present their decision at a Conference at which Turkish Representatives would assist. Your Lordship's peace proposals will be the basis, and the Representatives of the Six Powers will deliberate on their development and mode of execution.

His Highness said that Russia must insist on the reforms being real and effective, and not on paper, and likewise on a control and guarantee for their due execution; nature of guarantee would be matter for deliberation in Conference of Six Powers.

It appears to me that he aims at withdrawal of the Turkish garrisons and officers from the three Provinces, leaving the administration in the hands of the Christians, under the suzerainty of the Porte; nothing less, his Highness said, will satisfy Russia, who is determined, if necessary, to impose it.

General Ignatiew reports Sultan as willing to meet the wishes of the Emperor, and anxious to be relieved from his present difficulties; but both Sultan and Government seem to fear popular excitement, which paralyzes their action.

Prince Gortchakow represents state of affairs at Constantinople as dangerous and menacing to the Christians, and hinted that the Sultan might require support against his fanatical subjects.



In regard to Austria Prince Gortchakow was reserved, but evinced no hostile spirit, merely stating that the two Governments were in frank communication in regard to their mutual interests.

Whole question, in my opinion, depends as to whether Porte can or will grant such autonomy to the three Provinces as will satisfy Russia, and whether Austria will consent to it.

I shall despatch Queen's messenger after my audience of the Emperor on Tuesday or Wednesday.

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No. 426.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30, 3:30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 30, 1876, 11 A.M.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphed last night as follows:—

"Complete Turkish victory; the whole enemy's positions on left side of the Morava captured, with eleven guns. Servian loss heavy, including many foreigners. Turkish loss small. Enemy's positions of extraordinary strength, natural and artificial, literally taken with a run."

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No. 427.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30, 4·40 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 30, 1876, noon.*

DJUNIS taken yesterday afternoon by the Turks. Servians retreating. Prince Milan left in the night for head-quarters, leaving authority with Minister for Foreign Affairs to accept armistice, which Russian Consul is confident his Government will obtain from the Porte at once.

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No. 428.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876, 5:32 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government do not propose to send more Military Delegates than the other Powers. Major Gonne can go to Servia, and Captain Burnaby to Montenegrin frontier, leaving Sir A. Kemball available if required.

When the time comes for them to start let me know by what routes they should go.

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No. 429.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 30, 1876, 6:24 P.M.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has informed me that he has received a telegram from Livadia, stating that, in order to avoid the difficulties arising about a Conference, the Emperor agrees to an arrangement which, without excluding the Turkish Representatives, would admit of the Representatives of the six other Powers coming to a preliminary understanding among themselves.

The telegram goes on to say that if the Plenipotentiaries of the six Powers could meet preliminarily and discuss and come to a conclusion on the bases of peace, the Conference could be opened afterwards in the presence and with the participation of the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

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No. 430.

*Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 30, 1876.

MR. ASHMEA BARTLETT, just arrived from Deligrad, begs me to report that disloyal feeling in Servia towards the Russians is now intense.

Russian military arrogance and frequent outrage on Servian women has entirely alienated all classes.

Servia fearful of absorption and loss of democratic institutions.

Should your Lordship desire to see Mr. Bartlett immediately, please telegraph to me.

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No. 431.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1876, 10·20 P.M.

AN agreement is very nearly come to between the Porte and General Ignatiew about an armistice of two months, to be prolonged for six weeks if the progress of the negotiations should make it necessary, with further prolongation of six weeks, upon understanding to be come to between Porte and the Powers.

Some slight modifications appear, however, necessary in the terms of the arrangement, which I hope may be effected to-morrow.

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No. 432.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 30, 1876, 11 P.M.

RUSSIAN Representative is of opinion that the Porte will consent to six weeks armistice, and that he will make representation here accordingly.

If my colleagues receive instructions to support him, am I to join them, supposing I hear in time of the Porte's acceptance?

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No. 433.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 2·25 P.M.

IT is proposed to send Major Gonne as British Military Delegate, to arrange the armistice with the armies in Servia, as soon as an armistice is agreed to.

Can he be conveniently spared from Austria for the purpose?

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No. 434.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

THE following appears in Reuter's telegrams in this evening's newspapers:—

"*St. Petersburgh, October* 31.

"The 'Official Gazette' of to-day announces that General Ignatiew has been instructed to demand from the Porte the acceptance, within forty-eight hours, of a six weeks' armistice, and a suspension of hostilities.

"Should the Porte not accept, all diplomatic relations between Russia and Turkey will be broken off, and General Ignatiew, with the whole *personnel* of the Russian Embassy, will leave Constantinople."

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No. 435.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 31, 5·44 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 1 P.M.

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphed yesterday as follows:—

"'To-day Kruschevatz will be occupied, to-morrow Alexinatz will be attempted. If successful, terms of armistice will be arranged with the greatest ease.'"

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No. 436.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 31, 1876, 7 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, *en clair*, the Russian Ambassador has informed me this afternoon that General Ignatiew had been instructed to demand an answer to the Russian proposal of armistice within forty-eight hours, under threat of breaking off diplomatic relations with the Porte.

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No. 437.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*[a]—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 31, 1876.

THE following paragraph appeared in the official part of this morning's "Journal de St. Pétersbourg":—

"*St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{19}{31}$ *Octobre*, 1876.

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur a daigné ordonner aujourd'hui $\frac{30}{18}$ Octobre que l'Aide-de-camp Général Ignatiew déclare à la Sublime Porte que si dans un délai de deux jours elle n'accepte pas un armistice de six semaines ou de deux mois, et si elle ne donne pas des ordres immédiats pour arrêter les opérations militaires, l'Ambassadeur quittera Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade et les relations diplomatiques seront rompues."

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No. 438.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876.

I HEAR from the Porte that Alexinatz is taken.

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No. 439.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received October* 31, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1876, 12·45 P.M.

IN the arrangement proposed yesterday about the armistice, it was stated it would be concluded under the guarantee of the mediating Powers.

I have said that I am not in a position to give guarantee of Her Majesty's Government for the observance of the armistice, and I suggest that the expression should be "under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers."

General Ignatiew also advocates this change.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 440.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 31, 1876, 3 P.M.*

WOULD it not be best that Sir A. Kemball should be the delegate to arrange the conditions of the armistice, and that Captain Gonne should afterwards remain on the spot to watch over its observance?

The Military Attachés of some of the other Embassies will go from here as Delegates, but I hardly think that General Kemball should be kept on the ground after the armistice is regulated and defined.

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No. 441.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 31, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 31, 1876, 5·50 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government have disapproved the arrangement concerted with General Ignatiew for an armistice of two months' subsequently to be prolonged if necessary, and have ordered him to send in an ultimatum requiring the Porte to accept the armistice of six weeks or two months unconditionally.

If this is not accepted within forty-eight hours, relations between the two countries are to be broken off, and General Ignatiew is to leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy.

This ultimatum will be sent in to-night if the Council of Ministers now sitting does not signify to General Ignatiew the acceptance of the conditions.

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No. 442.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received October 31, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 31, 1876, 7 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW'S telegram ordering General Ignatiew to break off relations with the Porte is conceived in very harsh and peremptory terms.

Turks are represented as having offered an insult to Europe by carrying on offensive military operations while an effort was being made to conclude an armistice, and it is intimated that the Powers will not tolerate such proceedings.

As the Servians never at any time, even during the nominal suspension of hostilities, desisted from offensive operations, the accusation against the Turks appears very gratuitous.

The loss among the Russian officers in late fights has been very heavy, and General Ignatiew is convinced this and the fall of Alexinatz will render public feeling in Russia uncontrollable.

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No. 443.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 31, 1876, 10 P.M.*

IT is reported that communications are going on between Prince Milan and the Prince of Roumania, with a view to induce the latter to come to the rescue of Servia by crossing the Danube.

More Russian volunteers expected. Servian disaster much greater than was at first supposed.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 444.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, October 31, 1876, 7·10 P.M.*

I HAVE had some conversation with Count Andrassy on the language which Prince Gortchakow has held to Lord A. Loftus. He said that if Her Majesty's Government accept a Conference, he will do so also, though he has no hope of its leading to a good result, and he considers that the preliminary deliberations of the Representatives should not be of a more formal character than meetings which they have had on previous occasions with a view to act in concert.

The demands of Russia considered probable by Lord A. Loftus are what he has foreseen from the beginning they would be, and if the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the Provinces is insisted on, it will, of course, be refused by the Porte; and, as Russia's imposing it can only mean war, it might be more expedient that the war should come before preparations for it are fully made, than that it should be postponed for some months by a Conference.

I said he had himself spoken last week of moderate reforms which should be imposed on the Porte; but he said that the time seems passed for such reforms, and their acceptance could have been secured by a threat or a naval demonstration.

He seems to feel seriously the gravity of the situation, asked me to leave a Memorandum with him of what Prince Gortchakow may be expected to propose that he might show to the Emperor.

If the Porte were to give some guarantee to the Powers for a general measure of reform for all the Christian provinces being carried out, his Excellency would, I think, consider it a better solution than a measure limited to the northern provinces.

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No. 445.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Pesth, October 31, 1876, 10·30 P.M.*

WHEN I saw Count Andrassy this afternoon he told me of the conclusion of the armistice, and having telegraphed to Count Beust that he thought England and Austria should accept it as satisfactory. He came to see me, however, after dinner to say he had received a telegram stating that the Russian Government had announced that if the armistice of six weeks was not agreed to by the Porte immediately, General Ignatiew and the members of his Embassy were to leave Constantinople.

I answered this was evidently a comedy *à la Gortchakow*, as his Highness must have known when he published such instructions that the question was already arranged. Count Andrassy said that this was his own impression, but that his Highness had adopted such means of seeking popularity it was impossible to calculate on the next steps which he might take.

I then asked what he thought of the German Emperor's speech on the opening of Parliament; he said that its reference to the neighbouring States was ambiguous and open to different interpretations, and that it had exhibited the understanding of the three Emperors as reduced to a shadow.

I said that it could not, however, be for the interest of Germany to support Russia by arms; and he seemed to feel confident that there was no probability of such an eventuality.

His remaining here this week will depend on orders he expects from the Emperor, and as I must go to Vienna to-morrow I shall return on Thursday evening if he does not leave.

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No. 446.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 1, 2·9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

RUSSIAN ultimatum was sent in last night.

The Consuls in the interior are ordered to go to the seaports for greater security, and Russian interests will be entrusted to the German Embassy.

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No. 447.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 1, 3·12 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 1, 1876, 1·30 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador leaves this to-morrow for Constantinople; his departure does not arise from any political cause, but from continued illness. The members of the Embassy remain at their posts.

The staff of the Grand Duke Nicholas still here has received orders to be ready to start at a moment's notice. Every necessary arrangement for war has been made; 80,000 tons of lead were purchased by the Russian Government yesterday.

Nevertheless, there is reason to suppose that the campaign will not be opened at present.

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No. 448.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 1, 4·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 1, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING circumstances signified to Lord A. Loftus from Colonel Wellesley:—

(Secret.)

Orders expected to-night at General Staff as to whether there will be mobilization or not.

I am told that if the orders are to prepare mobilization, a manifest will appear in two days, but that no order to move will be given until two days after the issue of the manifesto.

An internal 5 per cent. loan is about to be issued.

Military Council was held last-night at the General Staff.

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No. 449.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1876, 7 P.M.

PORTE will consent to the demands of the Russian ultimatum, and orders are already sent to the Military Commanders to suspend all operations. An answer in this sense will be sent to General Ignatiew this evening.

I have informed Belgrade.

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No. 450.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Private.) *Pesth, November* 1, 1876.

WITH a view to tempt Count Andrassy to speak plainly, last night I observed, as an entirely personal opinion, that circumstances appeared to me to be driving England and Austria, whatever their wishes might be, towards the relations which he had wished to establish between them four years ago.

I did not invite an answer, but his Excellency said that if Great Britain had then

* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 453*.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 31st ultimo, I approve your suggestion that the words "under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers" should be substituted for the statement that the armistice would be concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers.

* Repeated to Embassies.





accepted his proposals we should not be in our present difficulties, or exposed to the eventualities with which we are now threatened.

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No. 451.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 1, 1876, 5 P.M.

I SEE no objection to Major Gonne proceeding to Servia.

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No. 452.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

YOU may leave confidentially with Count Andrassy a memorandum of proposals expected to be made by Prince Gortchakow, as suggested in your telegram of yesterday.

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No. 453.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876, 11·45 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday's date, Her Majesty's Government do not intend to retain Sir A. Kemball on the spot.

Colonel Lennox is going out as permanent Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, but has no wish to interfere with Sir A. Kemball under present circumstances, so long as your Excellency wishes to keep him at the Turkish head-quarters, where his services seem to have been so valuable.

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No. 454.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received November* 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 1, 1876, 8 P.M.

I HEAR that Servian Government are prepared to accept the armistice as agreed by the Porte, the terms of which have been made known to them by some of my colleagues.

I have not had them yet from Sir H. Elliot.

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No. 455.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—*(*Received November* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November* 1, 1876.
(Confidential.)

MY audience of the Emperor put off till to-morrow, on account of anniversary of late Empress' death.

I saw Prince Gortchakow yesterday.

On my inquiry whether he had any news, he replied in the affirmative, adding that he preferred that the Emperor should communicate it to me.

I received later from St. Petersburgh telegraphic official notification of ultimatum which General Ignatiew was instructed to address to the Porte.

I am told by the German Ambassador, who arrived last night, that the answer is expected here to-morrow, and that hopes are entertained that the armistice demanded by General Ignatiew will be granted, if not opposed by Sir H. Elliot.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 456.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, 12 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 2, 1876, 10·50 A.M.*

BILLETS posted yesterday in the streets saying that Russian Ambassador at Constantinople would break off relations if the armistice not agreed to at once. This intended for preservation of Russian prestige.

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No. 457.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, 4·42 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876, 2·50 P.M.*

I HAVE sent Sir A. Kemball following:—

"Russian Government have informed Porte that they will consider any excesses committed by the Turks as a violation of the armistice.

"Do all in your power to make the Commanders understand the necessity of effectual measures to prevent their occurrences."

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No. 458.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received November 2, 6·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876, 3 P.M.*

PORTE'S acceptance of Russian ultimatum was received last night by General Ignatiew, who telegraphed it at once to Prince Gortchakow.

The terms of the note are unexceptionable, and General Ignatiew appears quite satisfied.

He has telegraphed to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro to cease hostilites at once.

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No. 459.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876, evening.*

COLONEL LENNOX, appointed Military Attaché at Constantinople, is coming out to Vienna on his way to act as British Delegate for arrangement of the armistice in Montenegro.

Captain Burnaby is not going there.

Major Gonne should be ready to go to Servia as soon as he receives instructions.

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No. 460.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

IT has been decided to be more convenient to send Colonel Lennox, the new Military Attaché, to arrange the armistice in Montenegro instead of Captain Burnaby. He is leaving for Vienna to await instructions there.

Report as soon as it is desirable that he and Captain Gonne should proceed.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 461.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876, 8·8 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, urging that immediate instructions be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to begin preliminary discussions with the other Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers on the bases of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government. It will depend on the Powers, the Prince says, whether the result of these discussions be submitted to a Conference or to a Commission.

Count Schouvaloff said this latter phrase was not explained in the telegram, but he believed it to mean that if it was decided to dispense with a Conference, the results of the discussions would be at once presented to the Porte for acceptance, and only details be left for a Commission to deal with. If there is to be a Conference, the results would be laid before the Conference in which the Porte will be represented.

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No. 462.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW assures me that it was at the instance of Prince Bismarck that the Russian Government threatened to break off relations with the Porte if it did not consent to the short armistice.

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No. 463.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received November 2, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Yalta, November 2, 1876, 6 P.M.*

AT my audience the Emperor referred with great warmth to his daughter. "Is it likely," said His Majesty, "that I should have views hostile to England, which might bring about rupture between the two countries, when my daughter is married to an English Prince?"

His Imperial Majesty added, he had received yesterday a telegram from the Duchess of Edinburgh, saying that the Duke of Edinburgh had been ordered with his ship to Besika Bay, and that it was uncertain when he would return.

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No. 464.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received November 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 2, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

EMPEROR, at my audience to-day, was in spirit and language most conciliatory and satisfactory.

His Imperial Majesty said that the ultimatum to the Porte was occasioned by the news of the complete rout of the Servians three days ago, and the fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as occurred in Bulgaria. His Imperial Majesty stated that he had received this morning a telegram from General Ignatiew announcing that the Porte would probably accept proposed armistice. Official answer of the Porte would be given to-day.

His Majesty also read to me another telegram, saying that the Porte had already sent to their military commanders orders to suspend all further military operations. His Imperial Majesty evidently desires that the Conference should meet without delay, and requests that necessary instructions may be immediately sent to Ambassadors at Constantinople for deliberation of preliminaries.

His Imperial Majesty accepts the peace proposals submitted by your Lordship as basis.

* Repeated to Embassies.
† Repeated to Queen and Embassies.

His Imperial Majesty expressed his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England. He hoped that the unjust suspicion entertained in England of his policy would be discarded. He pledged his honour that he had no views of conquest or of Constantinople, and repeated this declaration several times, and in the most solemn manner.

All he required was the amelioration of the position of the Christians, but not resting on the Turkish promises, in which he had no reliance, but on real efficient guarantees. He said Treaty of 1856 replaced a Russian by a European Protectorate of the Christians, and since then Europe had not fulfilled this duty.

He wished to maintain the European concert, but if Europe remained passive, he would be obliged to act alone. He could not understand why there should not be complete understanding between England and Russia when they had a common aim, and when he gave his most sacred assurance of his disinterested policy.

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No. 465.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3, 11 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 2, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs says that he has heard, though he cannot vouch for its truth, that Russia intends to demand expulsion of Circassians from Bulgaria. He thinks this would be going too far, though when Greece complained of arrival of Circassian families at Volo he urged the Porte not to increase the numbers of Mussulman population in Christian provinces.

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No. 466.

*Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3, 12·58 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, November 3, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

RUSSIAN Consul and wife left this suddenly yesterday. News of the fall of Deligrad has been received.

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No. 467.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 3, 1876.*

DUKE DECAZES hears that General Ignatiew is pressing on his colleagues at Constantinople to begin Conference at once.

The Duke is not disposed to act so precipitately. He begs Her Majesty's Government to communicate to him as soon as possible their views on the following points:—

Where should the Conference meet?

When should it meet?

Of whom should it be composed?

If it be held at Constantinople, should each Government appoint a special Plenipotentiary in addition to its resident Ambassador?

What should be the basis of the Conference?

What instructions should be given to the Plenipotentiaries?

The Duke sent yesterday by telegraph to the French Ambassador at Constantinople an order to come immediately to Paris for instructions, but a telegram sent hence to-morrow morning would be in time to cancel this order.

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No. 468.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876, evening.*

(Most Confidential.)

THE following telegram has been received from Sir Henry Elliot, dated November 2nd:—

"General Ignatiew assures me that it was at the instance of Prince Bismarck that the Russian Government threatened to break off relations with the Porte if it did not consent to the short armistice."

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No. 469.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876, 6·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of last night, Count Schouvaloff has requested me to correct the expressions used by him respecting a Commission, as he says he was not authorized to use that phrase. He wishes to say that "the preliminary discussions will be followed by a Conference, or by some other form of concert which may be agreed upon by the Powers."

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No. 470.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876, 7 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have received with the greatest satisfaction the assurance given you by the Emperor of his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England, and his solemn statement that he pledged his honour that he had no views of conquest on Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government will give an answer as soon as possible respecting the proposed discussions and Conference. Speak in this sense to His Imperial Majesty and Prince Gortchakow.

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No. 471.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 3, 1876, 1 P.M.*

AFTER dinner yesterday at Livadia, Emperor showed me that the Porte had officially accepted the armistice—observing on the successful result of firmness in dealing with the Porte. In further conversation with His Imperial Majesty I took the opportunity to refer to the stipulation in your Lordship's peace proposals, "that there was no question of the creation of tributary State or States."

Prince Gortchakow called on me yesterday, on my referring to the desirableness of confining the question of autonomy within such limits as would be acceptable to Austria, his Highness replied, "Leave that to me; I will take that on myself, and I guarantee that there shall be no breach between Austria and Russia."

I have reason to believe that Russia can count on support of Germany.

Prince Gortchakow stated that if in the Conference to be held, Russia should be in a minority on the question of autonomy, General Ignatiew would place on record proposals of Russia and withdraw.

It is essential that the European concert should be maintained on this question, even at the price of mutual concessions, and question of autonomy appears to me to affect Austria more directly than England.

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No. 472.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 3, 1876, 7·20 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government being satisfied with the answer of the Porte to the ultimatum General Ignatiew invited his colleagues to concert for the immediate departure of the Delegates to arrange the details of the armistice.

The Delegates for Montenegro will meet at Ragusa, and Colonel Lennox should proceed there as soon as possible.

I have informed Sir A. Buchanan.

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No. 473.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 3, 1876, 8 P.M.*

FRENCH Ambassador has received orders to proceed without delay to Paris to receive instructions.

He leaves to-morrow.

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No. 474.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 3, 1876, 11 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW said to-day to his colleagues that as the armistice was established, he proposed that we should meet to discuss terms of peace, to which it was intended to lead.

I said that I could not enter into such a discussion without precise instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

He answered that as the early conclusion of peace was what we all desired, we should endeavour to give a form to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that administrative autonomy should be secured to the insurgent provinces.

I said that your Lordship had explained that the meaning of Her Majesty's Government was that the populations should have a certain control over the administration, but that I had no further information as to their views.

He then observed that this was only explanation given expressly by Her Majesty's Government; upon which I reminded him that the explanation had been communicated to all the other Governments, and assented to by them.

An attempt to lay down the manner in which the populations are to exercise the control demanded for them would appear to me open to great objection, and I imagine that all that can properly be done is to examine the measures proposed by the Porte, and to see that they give security (for their execution?).

The Russians object to any general measure for the reform of the administration of the whole country, but I believe that the Porte could not safely give exceptional privileges only to the provinces which have revolted, and that it is a question for the decision of the Cabinets rather than of their Representatives.

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No. 474 A.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 12·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 4, 1876, 11·50 A.M.*

GENERAL WERDER is expected from the Crimea with a letter from the Czar to the German Emperor.

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No. 474 B.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 4, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following to Sir H. Elliot:—

"I have received following from Monson:

"Prince Nicholas informs us that fortress of Spuz continues to fire upon Montenegrin positions.

"Russian Agent declares that he has received instructions at once to report to General Ignatiew any infraction of armistice by the Turks.

"The Prince sent to his Chiefs yesterday morning order for suspension of hostilities."

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No. 474 C.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 12 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 4, 1876.*

MY Russian colleague told me last night that in compliance with his instructions he had invited the Italian Government to send immediate orders to their Minister at Constantinople to take part in negotiations on the English bases to which they had agreed. He says that Russia understands local autonomy in the same sense as Her Majesty's Government, and that he has heard nothing of any other conditions than those put forward by England.

Italian Military Attaché at Vienna has been ordered to Widdin to join in the delimitation of the armistice.

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No. 475.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

*Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876, 1·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram to you, instruct Colonel Lennox to proceed to Ragusa and Major Gonne to Belgrade.

I have told Sir H. Elliot to inform them of the terms of armistice, and precise duties required of them.

Telegraph to Sir H. Elliot.

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No. 476.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

*Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE instructed Lennox to go to Ragusa and Gonne to Belgrade. You should inform them as soon as possible of the terms of the armistice, and of the precise duties required of them as military delegates.

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No. 477.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 4, 3·58 P.M.)

*Yalta, November* 4, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Gortchakow satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at assurances given me by the Emperor.

Court leave this on Tuesday next, 7th instant. According to present arrangements will stay three days at Moscow, and then return to St. Petersburgh.

I shall leave on Wednesday for St. Petersburgh.

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No. 478.

*Mr. Daria to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 4, 5 P.M.)

*St. Petersburgh, November* 4, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL FADEEFF gave my informant following information:—

That he had received a telegram from Tchernaieff, telling him that he was seriously wounded.

The General added, "I am going to Livadia to ask permission to replace Tchernaieff in command."

He left for Livadia three days ago.

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No. 479.

*Telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.*

*Foreign Office, November* 4, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

AS there appears to be some hesitation about the formal proposal of a Conference, Her Majesty's Government have determined to take the initiative, and you should propose to the Government to which you are accredited a Conference to be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part, and each Government may have two Representatives.

You will propose the following bases for the deliberations of the Conference, as suggested by Her Majesty's Government:—

1. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence or commercial concessions, as in the Protocols of September 17, 1840, and August 3, 1860. (See State Papers, vol. xxviii, p. 348, and vol. li, p. 279.)

3. The terms of pacification proposed by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte on my instruction of September 21.

If the Powers agree to this proposal, Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference.

If desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers before the opening of the Conference—these discussions to be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

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No. 480.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 4, 1876, 6·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my other telegram respecting the Conference, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have considered it would be useful that a special Ambassador should be sent to the Conference, but they desire you should act with him and wish you to understand that there is nothing in the appointment which in any way affects their confidence in you as Her Majesty's Representative, and that the special Ambassador will not interfere at all with the ordinary business of the Embassy, being merely appointed *ad hoc* to attend the Conference with you.

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No. 481.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 4, 1876.*

THE officers named below have been named as the Austro-Hungarian Delegates for carrying out the demarcation of the armistice:

Colonel Raab, Military Attaché at Constantinople for the Morava; Lieutenant-Colonel Albori for Montenegro.

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No. 482.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1876.*

SIR A. KEMBALL ought to be provided with a cypher while mediating the armistice. He has at present only army and navy signal book.

The delegates of the other Embassies leave this on Tuesday.

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No. 483.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, 8 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 4, 1876, 11·45 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY arrived here this morning to confer with Emperor, but I have not seen him. I have learnt, however, from Baron Orczy that invitation to a Conference at Constantinople had been received from Russia similar to that reported in Sir A. Paget's telegram of to-day; and having mentioned to him confidentially that I believed some points respecting the Conference were still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, namely, those referred to in Lord Lyons' telegram of yesterday, I suggested expediency of his calling Count Andrassy's attention to them; for though I had not been



instructed to ascertain his Excellency's views on the subject, it appeared to me that your Lordship would be glad to be acquainted with them.

Baron Orczy said that he would endeavour to do so in the course of the evening, but I have not yet heard from him. I am told, however, that the Emperor and Count Andrassy, who were to have left Vienna to-morrow, have given up this intention.

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No. 484.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 12·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Monson:—

"The Austrian and the Italian Agents propose to leave Cettigné next Monday, their presence here being no longer necessary, and the rendezvous of the foreign delegates being fixed at Ragusa. I trust that your Lordship will authorize me to do the same."

He informs me also that he wants to depart on Monday at noon, as there is no steamer till end of week, and his health is suffering from the cold; but as I understand from Count Andrassy there may possibly be a diplomatic discussion as to principle on which the delimitation is to take place, I have told him that he must not leave till he receives your Lordship's answer.

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No. 485.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1876.*

I HAVE officially communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, making the formal proposal of a Conference, and strongly urged the Porte to agree to it without hesitation.

His Excellency said that he could express no opinion, but would at once submit your Lordship's proposal to his colleagues.

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No. 486.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, 6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs came this morning to consult me about sending a Turkish squadron into the Black Sea to guard against a *coup de main* or an attempt by Russia to land troops near to entrance of Bosphorus on either European or the Asiatic shore.

Porte is, he said, informed, informed that the Russians have about eighty vessels that could at once be employed as transports, and that troops are being directed towards the coast.

I said that I thought a *coup de main* at this moment improbable, and that it was desirable to avoid everything likely to be taken as a menace by Russia, which might pretend an inability to resist the demonstration of public opinion that would be provoked by it.

I should therefore recommend the Porte to keep their fleet at Constantinople ready for immediate service, but not to send them into the Black Sea until an emergency seemed imminent.

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No. 487.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 2·45 P.M.*

HAVING been requested by Count Andrassy to call on him this morning, I took with me your Lordship's telegram of yesterday relative to the composition of a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and the basis for its deliberations.

He had already received a telegram on the subject from Count Beust, and said that he did not feel satisfied with the explanation it contained as to the question of the autonomy of the Turkish Provinces, and before he agreed to take part in the Conference he wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to maintain the understanding formerly come to between the two Governments as to the signification of the term "administrative autonomy," and that they will resist any attempt to give it a wider interpretation.

He said that the question was a vital one, as any system which would lead to the "chimera of disintegration" of the Turkish Empire would be more fatal to it than the entire loss of a portion of its territory. He said that the question being too important for him to form an opinion upon it without mature deliberation, he begged that I would communicate to him in writing the proposal which I had been instructed to make to him, and I promised to do so in the course of the day.

He also asked whether it was essential that the second Plenipotentiaries should have the rank of Ambassador, as he had nobody to send to whom he could give that position, and he further stated that he considered the Plenipotentiaries should not act under general instructions alone, but submit various points which might be discussed to their respective Governments for their final orders respecting them. In his own case, as responsible to Parliament, he said that he could not give anyone authority to act for him by merely general instructions.

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No. 488.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

DURING my interview with Count Andrassy to-day, he said there is another question at issue of more immediate importance than the Conference, namely, the principle on which the delimitation for the armistice is to be carried out.

The natural course would be for the different forces to hold the ground they occupy, but he fears a proposal is about to be brought forward for the withdrawal from Servia of the Turkish troops, as the peace is to be negotiated on the basis of the *status quo ante*. In Montenegro also he understands that the Prince will make difficulties as to revictualling of the fortresses, besides if the Turkish troops are to evacuate Montenegrin territory, the Montenegrins should evacuate that of Turkey.

These are all questions, he said, that cannot be decided by military delegates, and which ought to be arranged diplomatically before the Delegates enter on their duties.

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No. 489.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

AS Major Clanne informs me that all the Delegates from Constantinople, and the Italian Delegate from hence, are to meet on Thursday morning at Widdin, had I not better instruct him to proceed thither, and if his instructions are at Belgrade they might be sent to meet him at Bazias.

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No. 490.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential and Secret.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my preceding telegram of this day on the subject of the Conference, it appears to me that Count Andrassy is apprehensive lest Her Majesty's Government may be disposed to make concessions to Russia on the point of autonomy to be given to Turkish provinces. He said he feared little resistance to Russian views is to be expected from the other Powers, and that unless Austria is supported by England she would stand alone, and proposals would be made to the Porte which it could not accept, and war would be inevitable.

He has been alarmed by reports which have reached him from Berlin of the confidence which Her Majesty's Government are said to place on the views of Russia in consequence of the assurances given by the Emperor of Russia to Lord A. Loftus, as he said the Emperor has been giving similar assurances for the last year, but Prince Gortchakow has been acting in direct opposition to the declared policy of His Majesty, and, in his Excellency's opinion, if such institutions are given to Turkish provinces as his Highness, it is believed, will advocate, a declaration to maintain independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire will be entirely nugatory.

When Count Andrassy has read note which I have just addressed to him, he may be reassured on this subject; but the telegrams which he had received before my interview with him (? had alarmed him), and he seemed to think that too great precautions could not be taken against the risk "des surprises" in the proposed Conference.

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No. 491.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Monson's telegram about the fortress of Sputz continuing to fire upon the Montenegrin positions, and his Excellency promised that the orders to Dervish Pasha to suspend all hostilities should be repeated immediately. The first orders were sent from here on Wednesday afternoon, and it is not certain when they may have reached Sputz.

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No. 492.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 11 P.M.*

I THINK it right to state, with reference to an observation in my telegram of this day, marked Secret, that note to Minister for Foreign Affairs was drawn up in strict conformity with your Lordship's instructions; and his Excellency, when expressing distrust of Russia, said Prince Gortchakow has been announcing that he does not intend to be "magyarised" in the Conference.

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No. 493.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 5, 1876, 11·20 P.M.*

IN your telegram of November 3, reporting conversation with Prince Gortchakow, you state the Prince to have said to you that if in the Conference to be held Russia should be in a minority on the question of autonomy General Ignatiew would place on record proposals of Russia and withdraw. I have mentioned this language to Count Schouvaloff, and expressed a hope that it does not represent the serious intention of the Russian Government.

If each Government is to go into Conference with a settled plan which it declines to modify, no agreement can possibly be come to, and the Conference is useless.

Take an opportunity of speaking to Prince Gortchakow in sense.

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No. 494.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6, 1·12 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 5*, 1876, 11 P.M.

EMPEROR expressed gratification at the appreciation of His Majesty's assurances by Her Majesty's Government.

I communicated to the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow your Lordship's proposal as regards Conference. Emperor expressed to me wish that in Article No. 1 word "territorial" should be omitted. This would enable Porte to make any territorial concession to Montenegro which it might hereafter deem desirable.

Emperor regretted departure from Constantinople of French Ambassador; his absence causing delay of fifteen days in meeting (of ?).

I shall see Prince Gortchakow to-morrow, and telegraph his Highness's answer to your Lordship's proposals.

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No. 495.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6, 12·40 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 6*, 1876, 12·8 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday respecting the military delegates I have instructed Major Gome, in compliance with a suggestion received this morning from Sir H. Elliot to proceed to Widdin to meet his colleagues there or at Saitchar.

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No. 496.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6, 2 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 6*, 1876, 12·15 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to the Duc Decazes the contents of your telegram of the 4th, respecting a Conference at Constantinople.

He has no objection himself to the arrangements proposed therein, but he entreats your Lordship to agree to a compromise if objections be raised by other Powers.

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No. 497.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 6*, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

SNOW having fallen in Bohemia, the Emperor having promised to go there, left Vienna last-night for his residence near Posth, and Count Andrassy also left to visit his family in Hungary, which he had wished to do for some weeks.

His Excellency, who will return here on Friday, had not received my note respecting the Conference before he left.

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No. 498.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic) *Foreign Office, November 6*, 1876, 5 P.M.

IT would probably be better that Monson should remain in Montenegro for the present, but you may use your discretion in the matter.

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No. 499.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 6*, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 5th instant, reporting a conversation with Count Andrassy respecting delimitation for armistice, report by telegram what are the precise terms of the armistice.

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No. 500.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 6*, 1876, 5·20 P.M.

POINT out to Count Andrassy that the explanation of administrative autonomy is contained in the proposal made by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte on the 21st of September, which forms the third proposed basis, and say that it is not the practice of Her Majesty's Government to give general instructions empowering Plenipotentiaries to agree to important matters without reference home, and that no final agreement would be come to without their being consulted. You will state that Her Majesty's Government concur therefore with Count Andrassy in this respect.

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No. 501.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 6*, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

THE Italian Government accepts in principle the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference at Constantinople.

Official reply in writing to-morrow.

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No. 502.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 6*, 1876.

I HAVE communicated the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to the German Government, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs has submitted it to the Emperor and to the Chancellor. His Excellency will instruct German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend preliminary discussions, and sees no objection to appointment of second Plenipotentiary if necessary.

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No. 503.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Berlin, November 6*, 1876.

M. BULOW is anxious to be confidentially informed whether your Lordship thinks the limitations of the armistice should admit of the Turks keeping their present positions on Servian territory or not?

Prince Bismarck thinks the Turks should recross the frontier, and evacuate Servian territory, on the principle *statu quo ante bellum* during armistice. This is also the Russian view.

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No. 504.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

THE Servians can have no claim to the *status quo ante bellum* till peace is concluded. Her Majesty's Government thinks that the armies ought to retain their present positions.

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No. 505.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 6, 1876, 8 P.M.*

I SAW Prince Gortchakow this morning. He agrees to your Lordship's proposals and bases of Conference, with the omission of the word "territorial" preceding "integrity of Ottoman Empire," in Article No. 1.

His Highness observed that he could not accept that term, as it determined exclusion of possibility of occupation, which he considers will be still necessary as a guarantee for the security of Christian population, and for execution of reforms. This occupation should bear European character, as in the case of Syria, mentioned in the Protocol referred to by your Lordship in 1860, and it might be entrusted to Russia and Austria, acting in the name of Europe. Prince Gortchakow also stated that excesses were still being perpetrated in Bulgaria, and that if they continue, force would be necessary to maintain order; but his Highness distinctly stated that Russia would not take an inch of territory.

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No. 506.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Yalta, November 6, 1876, 11 P.M.*

EMPEROR told me yesterday that he had received a telegram from General Tchernaieff, requesting permission to wait on His Imperial Majesty here, and that he had declined to receive him.

I am told, from a good source, that the Sultan is turning to Russia for protection and support, and it is rumoured that the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed a wish to come to the Crimea to ask the Emperor to save the Ottoman Empire, but that it was declined.

I hear that, at the private audience of General Ignatiew, the Sultan asked for his support against his Ministers.

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No. 507.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 6, 1876, 10·20 P.M.*

I AM assured that the steamers of the Russian Black Sea Company are not allowed to run from here on any of the lines except to Odessa.

The steamer to Syria and Egypt, which should have sailed on Saturday, was stopped by order of General Ignatiew, and discharged her cargo and returned the freights paid.

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No. 508.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 2·15 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your advice to the Porte not to send a fleet into the Black Sea, as reported in your telegram of the 5th instant.

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No. 509.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th, the expression "territorial integrity" is taken from the Treaty of Paris.

From the nature of the relations between the Porte and Montenegro, the expression would not exclude any frontier arrangements with Montenegro which the Porte might be disposed to concede.

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No. 510.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 3·40 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me the following telegrams from his Government:—

(No. 1.)

"We accept the English proposal for a Conference, but are of opinion that as regards the preliminary discussions the presence of the second Plenipotentiary should be optional, and should be left to the discretion of each of the Powers."

(No. 2.)

"Russia desires the assembling of a Conference, and looks upon it as the best method of attaining, through an agreement amongst the Powers, the conclusion of peace, and security for the position of the Christian population.

"Prince Gortchakow's remarks to Lord A. Loftus were not meant to indicate a desire to impede the liberty of discussion amongst the Powers, nor had they in view the creation of any difficulties in the way of the meeting of the Conference.

"Prince Gortchakow repeated to Lord A. Loftus what Russia has not ceased to affirm since the month of June.

"Russia desires the prosperity of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, to be obtained by institutions granting local and administrative autonomy, which she would wish to be real and efficacious."

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No. 511.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 4·40 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has been with me to-day, and requested me to suspend any action for twenty-four hours on your telegram of yesterday, respecting Prince Gortchakow's objections to the word "territorial," as he has represented to Prince Gortchakow that the word is a quotation, and given other reasons for his Highness not pressing his objection.

I have consented to wait accordingly.

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No. 512.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, afternoon.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom has telegraphed that the Russian Consul was about to leave professedly on business, and had asked him temporarily to protect Russian subjects.

* Repeated to Embassies.

I have allowed him to do so to avoid danger of misunderstanding between them and the Turks. The Russian Consuls have been withdrawn from many of the inland towns, and the effect if not the intention of this measure has been to increase irritation of the Turks and to encourage Christians by expectation of an immediate rupture.

Whilst among others the Consul at Adrianople has been withdrawn, the Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, who is a Bulgarian, who is much implicated in the late revolutionary movement, has been reinstated in his post.

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No. 513.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 11·45 A.M.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's letter of the 5th instant, it is understood here that the delimitation of the armistice is to be carried out on the principle usually followed in such cases.

Instructions drawn up upon that principle were unanimously adopted by the Representatives, including General Ignatiew, who warmly approved them.

The instructions state that the duty of the Commission is to lay down as quickly as possible, and with the most scrupulous precision by the position of the villages, the lie of the ground, &c., the line of demarcation between the armies.

The Commission will be guided in this duty by the fundamental principle of every armistice, according to which the belligerents must retain their respective positions as far as the nature of the ground admits.

A neutral zone of not less than 8 kilometres will be fixed between advanced posts from which officers and men of both armies will be rigorously excluded.

The Commission will proceed first to arrange the armistice for the armies of the Morava and the Timoc, as the chief seat of war, and afterwards proceed to the west frontier of Servia.

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No. 514.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 7, 1876, 4·15 P.M.*

I LEARN here confidentially that Prince of Montenegro will probably propose that the Delegates of England, Italy, and Austro-Hungary should (draw ?) up the line of demarcation on the side of Herzegovina, and those of France, Russia and Germany (if a German is appointed) on the Albanian frontier.

His Highness will probably claim on the side of the Herzegovina a line from Klobuk through Bilek to Fotscha, and on the Albanian frontier from the confluence of the Murta and Morascha all the plateaus of Kutschi and Drekolovitz, leaving the plain of Moroccha to be occupied by the Turks. He pretends that no Turkish troops hold the country within these limits. Mukhtar Pasha is believed here to have retired from Zaslap to Trebigné.

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No. 515.

*Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, 6·50 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 7, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

KING and Queen arrived this afternoon, and were received with immense enthusiasm.

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No. 515*.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

IT is stated that the Russians commit great excesses, and are guilty of much licentious conduct in Servia. Is this so? If so, report any well-authenticated cases.

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No. 516.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 7 P.M.*

THE delegates appointed to determine the conditions of the armistice left this to-day for the Turkish head-quarters, viâ Widdin.

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No. 517.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 7, 1876, 11 P.M.*

HAVING taken leave of Emperor, I was not able to deliver the Queen's message in person to His Imperial Majesty, but I immediately sent last evening text to Prince Gortchakow for delivery to His Majesty. Emperor and Prince Gortchakow left for Moscow this afternoon, so I cannot have personal communication with Prince Gortchakow for at least a week.

Your Lordship can only communicate with him, therefore, through Count Schouvaloff.

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No. 518.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 7, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

I LEAVE to-morrow for Petersburgh by Odessa.

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No. 519.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus:*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 8, 1876, 2·25 P.M.*

THE Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with Sir H. Elliot.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

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No. 520.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8, 4·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 8, 1876, noon.*

THE answer of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is a full acceptance of the Conference on the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency states that although, in his opinion, the work of the Conference as well as that of the preliminary discussions (would ?) have been facilitated by another place of meeting being chosen, and that he considers the sending a special Plenipotentiary to Constantinople as optional to

* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Odo Russell, and Mr. White.

each Government, still, not wishing by raising objections to retard the work of pacification, he does not hesitate to declare that Italy will be represented in the Conference, "in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part."

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No. 521.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 8, 1876.*

I HAVE informed Baron Orczy that the Conference has been accepted by Russia with the expression of an opinion that the attendance of a second Plenipotentiary should be optional. He said that the Italian Minister, in acquainting him with the adhesion of his Government, observed that a Conference of so formal a character might meet more advantageously at a neutral town.

With reference to a statement in a telegram of Lord A. Loftus, I spoke of a newspaper report that Turkey was seeking for an arrangement with Russia alone, but he said the report could have no authentic foundation. I also said that Prince Gortchakow is believed still to consider that foreign troops may be required to oblige populations to accept decisions of the Conference, and he answered that Count Andrassy is not likely to (sanction ?) such a proposal should it be made, as the regular troops might be equally well suited for the purpose.

The Ministry here have reason to believe that the voyages of the Russian Black Sea steamers have been restricted to that sea.

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No. 522.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 8, 1876.*

WITH reference to Prince Gortchakow's suggestion about the attendance of the Second Plenipotentiaries at the preliminary discussions, I would submit that the moment when their presence may be most beneficial will be precisely when the measures to be adopted are being discussed.

The presence of a British Cabinet Minister would have weight with some of the Representatives much under the influence of General Ignatiew.

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No. 523.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received November 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1876, 11·40 A.M.*

THERE is, I believe, no truth in the report mentioned by Lord A. Loftus of the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs having proposed to go to the Crimea to appeal directly to the Emperor of Russia.

On the other hand, the Turkish public consider the proposals for a Conference and the autonomy of Provinces as most injurious to their interests; and they are told by the Russians that they both originated with Her Majesty's Government.

This has produced a mischievous effect, and people are beginning to ask whether, if Great Britain has turned against Turkey, it might not be best to throw themselves into the arms of Russia, and trust to the magnanimity of the Emperor. None, at least, of the principal Ministers adopt this view.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 524.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 9, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is from Colonel Wellesley:—

"I hear on good authority that manifesto of mobilization will appear on Sunday. Grand Duke Nicholas is said to be appointed to corps of Southern Army."

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No. 525.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876, 3·45 P.M.*

INFORM Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, that they will probably be required to meet Lord Salisbury at Constantinople.

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No. 526.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

YOU may probably be required to meet Lord Salisbury at Constantinople that he may consult you on the state of the Slavonic provinces.

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No. 527.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1181, your efforts to urge greater activity in punishing Bulgarian outrages are approved.

Her Majesty's Government much regret unsatisfactory replies of Grand Vizier. Continue to urge the matter.

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No. 528.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received November 9, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1876.*

PORTE'S (reply?) to the invitation to the Conference has been delayed by a telegram from Musurus Pasha reporting a conversation with your Lordship, in which he stated the objection felt to it by his Government and asked for information on certain points. Ambassador said your Lordship, after giving some explanations, added, "We must see what your Government will say."

They have therefore sent Musurus Pasha fresh instructions and wait for his answer, after communicating them to your Lordship, before they reply to the invitation, but they will certainly end by accepting.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 529.

*Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 10.)*

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 8 Novembre*, 1876.

SON Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre m'a communiqué le télégramme de son Excellence Lord Derby concernant la réunion à Constantinople d'une Conférence qui prendrait pour bases de ses délibérations:—

1. L'indépendance et l'intégrité de l'Empire.

2. La renonciation des Puissances médiatrices à tout avantage exclusif.

3. Les termes de pacification proposés dans son télégramme du 21 Septembre, et qui portent le retour au *statu quo ante* pour la Serbie et le Monténégro, et l'établissement d'une autonomie administrative et locale pour certaines autres parties de l'Empire.

Nous sommes on ne peut plus reconnaissants de la sollicitude de sa Seigneurie pour mettre un terme aux embarras de la situation actuelle; nous apprécions la haute valeur des vues de son Excellence; seulement nous nous demandons si, en adhérant à un pareil programme, le Gouvernement Impérial ne se trouvera pas immédiatement entraîné sur un terrain des plus désavantageux pour lui. Le Gouvernement Impérial, en ce moment, est en train de procéder à la mise en exécution et à l'application des nouvelles institutions. Il comprend les exigences de la situation et les signes des temps; il a hâté de faire voir par les faits qu'il poursuit une œuvre de rénovation sérieuse et radicale. Est-ce le moment pour lui de s'engager dans une discussion concernant des autonomies locales? Un pareil principe aurait pour conséquence inévitable de faire avorter les réformes en cours, de détruire par là le prestige de l'autorité, de créer des inégalités choquantes, de soulever dans la pratique des difficultés insurmontables, de garantir une prime aux mouvements insurrectionnels, de faire prendre à la crise un caractère permanent, de constituer en un mot un état de choses qui serait une menace perpétuelle pour la paix de l'Empire et de l'Europe. Indépendamment de ce qui pourrait être dit au sujet des autonomies, la Sublime Porte ne peut se dissimuler la grave atteinte qui serait portée au principe même de l'indépendance de l'Empire, si les affaires intérieures devenaient l'objet des délibérations d'une Conférence internationale. Comment pourrait-elle se résigner à renverser de ses propres mains, en participant à une Conférence ayant pour objet de régler les affaires intérieures de l'Empire, la plus forte barrière que l'Empire puisse mettre aujourd'hui entre lui et ses adversaires? Une fois l'œuvre du Traité de Paris mise de côté, on se trouverait à la merci des événements. Tandis qu'une attaque contre l'Empire constituerait aujourd'hui la violation d'un Traité solennel et un pur acte d'aggression, cette attaque, dans le cas où la Conférence n'aboutirait pas, se présenterait comme le résultat inévitable des divergences survenues dans le courant de discussions dont la Sublime Porte aurait admis le principe. Soit donc que la Conférence proposée aboutisse, soit qu'elle n'aboutisse pas, le Gouvernement Impérial n'en sortirait pas moins amoindri dans son indépendance ou bien dans les moyens de défense que lui assurent aujourd'hui des engagements internationaux.

Son Excellence Lord Derby, en prenant connaissance des considérations qui précèdent, et qui résument la pensée intime du Gouvernement Impérial, saura discerner, nous n'en doutons pas, la vraie situation de la Sublime Porte.

Nous sommes prêts à faire tout ce qui dépendra de nous pour ramener un moment plus tôt l'ère de la paix et de la tranquillité. Mais la réunion d'une Conférence serait de trop grand inconvénient pour qu'il ne nous soit pas permis de désirer que le Cabinet Britannique veuille bien consentir à ce que l'entente désirée soit obtenue sans la réunion de Plénipotentiaires étrangères ayant pour mission d'engager une discussion sur l'administration intérieure de l'Empire.

Veuillez bien donner lecture à Lord Derby du présent télégramme.

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No. 530.

*Consul Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November 9*, 1876.

PORTE has ordered fifteen battalions to be dispatched from Podgoritza to Antivari, to be embarked for Constantinople on transports already on their way to Albania.

Small garrisons will be left in the forts on the Montenegrin southern frontier, and I am told other battalions are to be brought from Podgoritza to winter quarters in Scutari.

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No. 531.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 10*, 1876.

I HOPE you will send out a very ample staff with Lord Salisbury, for my own men are greatly overworked, and want help, and it may be desirable that one should remain here after the Conference is over.

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No. 532.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 10*, 1876, 3 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 8th instant, Her Majesty's Government have no intention of authorizing any preliminary discussion until the bases are settled and Lord Salisbury arrives.

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No. 533.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 10*, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

THE Russian Embassy informs me that a telegram has been received from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Imperial Government accept as it stands ("tel quel") the programme proposed by the Cabinet of London for the meeting of the Conference.

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No. 534.

*The Earl of Derby to the British Embassies at Constantinople, Paris, Rome, Berlin, and Vienna.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 10*, 1876.

COMMUNICATE to the Government to which you are accredited the despatch to Lord A. Loftus, No. 554 of the 30th ultimo, inclosed in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

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No. 535.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 10*, 1876.

THE Austrian Agent at Cettigné, who was detained while question as to principle of demarkation was unsettled, leaves to-morrow for Pesth. I have authorized Monson to proceed at the same time to Ragusa.

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No. 536.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 10*, 1876.

BEFORE leaving Vienna last Sunday, Count Andrassy instructed Count Beust to inform your Lordship that he accepted the Conference in principle. He intended making his official answer on his return to-day, but as, on arriving this morning, he found a telegram announcing his mother's death, he will, I believe, leave again to-night for Hungary, to return on Wednesday.

He has, however, seen the Emperor, and I shall probably be able to learn to-morrow whether any decision was taken about the arrangements for the Conference.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 537.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 10, 1876.

I SHALL be happy, whenever your Lordship offers me an opportunity, of making my experience serviceable in Her Majesty's service, and shall hold myself, therefore, in readiness.

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No. 538.

*Consul Green to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE telegraphed following to the Ambassador at Constantinople :—

"Russian Consul informs me he is going to report to his Government what he believes to be infraction of the armistice by the Commander-in-chief at Podgoritza.

"He alleges that the damage lately effected by the Montenegrin artillery on the block-house No. 1 is being repaired.

"If your Excellency considers it would be advisable for the Commander-in-chief to desist, although proceeding complained of may not be irregular, I think that representation from me to him would make him do so."

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No. 539.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 11, 1·28 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 11, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

RUSSIAN papers report this morning following speech of Emperor last night at the Kremlin :—

"During my whole life I have endeavoured to obtain for the Christians in the East what right and justice demand. Unfortunately pacific efforts have not obtained desired result. A Conference is now about to assemble at Constantinople, in which Russia will present her demands. If her endeavours are not crowned with success, Russia will take up arms, and I count on support of my people."

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No. 540.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 11, 4·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 11, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

RUSSIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow will arrive at Czarsko Selo very early on Monday morning.

With regard to Emperor's speech at Moscow, of which he has not official intimation, his Excellency considers it not in the light of a menace to appeal to arms, but as a wish, by following the national sentiment, to keep the initiative out of the hands of Slav Committees.

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No. 541.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1876.

COUNT MUNSTER informs me that he has received a telegram from Berlin informing him that Lieutenant-Colonels von Mantey and von Lubeck have been appointed German Commissioners for fixing the line of demarcation between the belligerents.

* Repeated to Embassies.

† A similar telegram was sent to Consul-General White.



Lieutenant-Colonel von Mantey is going to act in Servia, and Lieutenant-Colonel von Lubeck in Montenegro. The officers will start from Berlin this evening, November 11.

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No. 542.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 11, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November* 11, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

I FIND ten more battalions—twenty-five in all—and two batteries of field-guns are under orders for Constantinople.

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No. 543.

*Colonel Lennox to Lord Tenterden.*—(*Received November* 11, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, November* 11, 1876, 3·40 P.M.

AT Vienna no instructions except proceed, Ragusa arrived yesterday, but find no instructions.

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No. 544.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 11, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 11, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

I LEFT your Lordship's despatch to Lord A. Loftus to-day with Baron Orczy, accompanied by a few lines to Count Andrassy, and I acquainted him at the same time with the entire acceptance of the Conference programme by Russia. He expressed much satisfaction on learning this, as Russian Ambassador did not believe his Government have accepted. Count Andrassy, who has not yet left for Hungary, had an audience of the Emperor to-day, but Baron Orczy could not aquaint me with his final arrangements about the Conference.

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No. 545.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 12, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November* 12, 1876, 11·45 A.M.

DUC DECAZES tells me that Chaudordy will be appointed Special Ambassador, and that he and Bourgoing are to act together at the Conference, but that the question of their relative positions towards each other is not yet settled.

He is preparing their instructions, and has made arrangements to enable them to start for Constantinople immediately when proper moment comes.

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No. 546.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING speech of the Emperor at Moscow appeared in this morning's official paper :—

"Je vous remercie, Messieurs, des sentiments que vous avez voulu m'exprimer dans les circonstances politiques actuelles. La situation est aujourd'hui plus claire et je suis prêt maintenant à accepter votre adresse avec satisfaction. Vous savez que la Turquie a consenti à la conclusion immédiate d'un armistice que j'ai exigé pour mettre fin à une effusion de sang inutile en Serbie et au Monténégro. Dans cette lutte inégale, les Monténégrins se sont montrés comme toujours de véritables héros; malheureusement on ne peut accorder les mêmes éloges aux Serbes, malgré la présence dans leurs rangs de nos volontaires, dont beaucoup ont versé leur sang pour la cause

Slave. Je sais que la Russie entière avec moi prend la part la plus vive aux souffrances de nos frères de religion et de race; mais pour moi les véritables intérêts de la Russie sont les plus chers de tous et je désirerais éviter jusqu'à la dernière extrémité l'effusion du précieux sang Russe. Voilà pourquoi je poursuis mes efforts pour atteindre par des moyens pacifiques une amélioration effective du sort de toutes les populations Chrétiennes de la Péninsule des Balkans. Des Conférences doivent s'ouvrir ces jours-ci à Constantinople entre les Représentants des six Grandes Puissances pour la détermination des conditions de la paix. Je désire beaucoup que nous puissions arriver à une entente générale, mais si cet accord n'a pas lieu, et si je vois que nous n'obtenons pas des garanties réelles de l'exécution de ce que nous sommes en droit d'exiger de la Porte, j'ai la ferme intention d'agir seul, et je suis certain que dans ce cas la Russie entière répondra à mon appel, lorsque je le jugerai nécessaire et que l'honneur du pays l'exigera. Je suis convaincu également que comme toujours Moscow donnera alors l'exemple. Que Dieu nous aide à remplir notre sainte mission !"

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No. 547.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12, 4·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 12, 1875, 2 P.M.*

ONE of Count Andrassy's Secretaries has called to say, as his Excellency understands Lord Salisbury may go to Constantinople by Vienna, he hopes, as he cannot return from his mother's funeral till Friday afternoon, that his Lordship will arrange not to arrive before that day, in order that they may have some conversation on the objects of the Conference.

I shall be happy to give Lord Salisbury rooms at the Embassy.

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No. 548.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.*

HAVING heard that the Russian flag used to be hoisted over Tchernaieff's head-quarters I telegraphed to Sir Arnold for information and have received the following answer from him:—

"Two Russian flags over two small dark flags, supposed to be Servian, one each side of the gateway of Tchernaieff's head-quarters, Deligrad, witnessed by surgeons of the Red Cross accompanying Colonel Lindsay and by us with telescopes extreme right of the old Turkish position, thus last Wednesday both staffs were bare. Russian flag on a church steeple at Alexinatz pulled down and Turkish flag substituted. Ball and Cross mutilated."

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No. 549.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13, 12·30 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 13, 1876, 10·45 A.M.*

PORTE has again delayed answering invitation to Conference till a further Report has been received from Musurus Pasha of a communication which he says he expects from your Lordship.

I have protested strongly against the delay.

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No. 550.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 13, 1876, 10·50 A.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has expressed to me his earnest desire that Her Majesty's Government would make known to the Porte the measures which it is expected to grant for the



administration of Provinces. He says that if the Porte was aware of what the Powers require, it would very likely be able to grant everything, and make it unnecessary to have a Conference, which is greatly dreaded.

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No. 551.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 13, 1876, 11 A.M.*

THE Porte having, upon my advice, abstained from sending ships into the Black Sea, has sent them to the Upper Bosphorus.

The Lower Bosphorus is unsuitable for winter anchorage, and under present circumstances it would have been unwise to send them into the Golden Horn, within the Two Bridges; but I understand that, although the present station of the ships is within twelve miles of Constantinople, and in its police district, the Russian Embassy regards the step as a demonstration, and may force its Government to extreme measures.

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No. 552.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 13, 1876, 1·32 P.M.*

THE Porte has requested that the Consul-General at Beyrout may be directed not to distribute an Arabic newspaper containing articles hostile to the Government. This has been done on previous occasions. Am I authorized to prevent their distribution?

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No. 553.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1876, 5·25 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government have explained to Musurus Pasha that they cannot concur in the objections advanced by the Porte, that other Powers would not do so either, and that as concert among the Powers is imperative and essential to pacification, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Porte will not refuse to join in the Conference.

Musurus Pasha has stated that he has telegraphed answer of Her Majesty's Government to Safvet Pasha.

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No. 554.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1876, 6 P.M.*

COLONEL LENNOX has reported arrival at Ragusa, but on 11th instant he had received no instructions.

Give Colonel Lennox as soon as you can the requisite information to enable him to act as Delegate.

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No. 555.

*The Earl of Derby to Colonel Lennox.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1876, 6·5 P.M.*

YOU were right to proceed to Ragusa. Sir Henry Elliot will give you the requisite information to enable you to act as Delegate.

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No. 556.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 13, 1876, 3·45 P.M.*

A TELEGRAM was sent to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople yesterday by Count Andrassy, informing him that Austria-Hungary has accepted the English programme for the Conference, and instructing him to avoid preliminary discussion till arrival of all the Representatives.

The second Plenipotentiary has not yet been named.

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No. 557.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 13, 1876, 4 P.M.*

THE port of Klek has not been opened as alleged by the press, but permission has been given for the entrance of Turkish vessels to remove sick and wounded, on condition that they do not introduce fresh troops, arms, or munitions of war.

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No. 558.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 14, 1876, 2·55 P.M.*

THIS day's official journal publishes text of circular despatch from Prince Gortchakow to Russian Representatives abroad to be communicated to foreign Governments. It recapitulates efforts of Russia and other Powers in interest of peace to obtain serious guarantees for Christians in Turkey, and to establish concert of European Powers, and adds that in the meantime Porte has been exciting Mussulman fanaticism, crushing its Christian subjects, and that authors of atrocities are still unpunished, while similar atrocities are being perpetrated throughout Empire. Under these circumstances Emperor has thought necessary to mobilize part of his army, as His Majesty is determined to attain, by every means in his power, object traced by concert of Powers. His Majesty does not desire war, will do his possible to avert it, but is determined not to desist till principles reconciled as equitable, humane, and necessary by all Europe, and energetically supported by public feeling in Russia, have been fully carried into execution under sanction of efficient guarantees.

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No. 559.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1876, 8·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 590A of September 26, again call serious attention of Porte to necessity of taking precautions to prevent occurrence of further atrocities by disbanded troops.

As an armistice is in course of settlement, it is most important that all the Turkish auxiliary forces should be sent to winter quarters or their homes under command of responsible officers, and subject to proper discipline. If they are dismissed without these precautions, it is scarcely possible that numerous acts of plunder and violence should not be committed in countries through which disbanded soldiery pass.

Desire British officers on the spot to do all in their power to insure full observance of orders received by Turkish commanders on the subject.

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No. 560.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14, 10 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 14, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

I RETURNED here this morning. Shall dispatch messenger Ball on Thursday or Friday after seeing Prince Gortchakow.

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No. 561.

*Telegraphic Summary of Statement by Greek Foreign Minister.—(Communicated by M. Gennadius, November 14, 1876.)*

INTERPELLÉ hier à la Chambre sur la ligne politique que le Cabinet compte suivre, je me suis exprimé à peu près en ces termes: La marche que nous avons suivie jusqu'à présent démontre suffisamment celle que nous suivrons, si la Représentation Nationale veut bien continuer de laisser en nos mains la direction des affaires de l'Etat. Nous avons été partisans de la politique de la paix, et nous ne cesserons de l'être, à moins que le cours des événements ne nous force à adopter une autre ligne de conduite; or, c'est en prévision de cette dernière éventualité que nous avons jugé et jugeons nécessaire de préparer les forces militaires du pays. Cette préparation ne doit donc pas être considérée comme un indice de tendances et de desseins belliqueux; elle doit être simplement regardée comme une mesure de prévoyance adoptée en vue de nécessités possibles. En attendant, nous espérons que l'Europe, se basant sur la justice, et ayant en vue d'établir une paix durable en Orient, acceptera des mesures efficaces et propres à atteindre ce double but, et que par là elle nous rendra plus facile à nous-mêmes la persévérance dans le dessein que nous avons formé et poursuivi dès l'origine, et dans lequel nous tenons à persévérer. Nous avons grand besoin de cet appui moral pour ne pas nous départir de la politique de la paix; en effet je manquerai de franchise si j'essayais de dissimuler qu'il serait malaisé, pour ne pas dire impossible, que le Royaume Hellénique puisse demeurer impassible et inerte lorsqu'il s'agit des destinées de la Grèce asservie. Ce qui lie la Grèce esclave et la Grèce libre, ce n'est pas seulement la communauté de la race, et de la langue, et des mœurs, et des traditions nationales; c'est encore le sentiment d'une dette sacrée contractée par la Grèce libre envers celle qui ne l'est pas. Car la Grèce libre n'a jamais perdu ni ne perdra le sentiment et la mémoire de ce fait, que la liberté de l'Etat Hellénique actuel est le produit des efforts et des sacrifices communs de tout l'Hellénisme. Ainsi donc aucune autorité, aucun pouvoir ne se trouvera qui ait assez de force pour imposer à la Grèce libre la patience et la tranquillité en présence des injustices que l'on commettrait au détriment de la Grèce esclave.

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No. 562.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)*

*Vienna, November 14, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY has been prevented by indisposition from proceeding further than Pesth, where his physicians wish him to remain for two days. It is believed here that he will therefore return to Vienna as soon as he can.

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No. 563.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)*

*Berlin, November 14, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.)

YES, German Government have accepted the Conference in principle and only wait for the adherence of all the other Powers to declare their adherence officially.

German Emperor will not, however, appoint a second Ambassador. *Vide* my despatch No. 495 on the 10th instant.

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No. 564.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Private.) *Belgrade, November* 15, 1876, 9 A.M.

PLEASE inform me as soon as possible when, and also by which route, Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary proceeds to Constantinople; also, whether I am to leave any one in charge here, and whom?

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No. 565.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Strictly Confidential.) *Vienna, November* 15, 1876.

I HAVE been assured to-day, on apparently good authority, that one of the Austrian Ministers has said that the Emperor told him two days ago, that Austria-Hungary is happily in a position which will enable her to remain neutral in the event of a war between Russia and Turkey.

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No. 566.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 15, 1876, 2·10 P.M.

DIRECT Consul-General at Beyrout not to distribute Arabic newspapers referred to in your telegram of the 13th instant, but report circumstances of the case and send translations of the articles complained of by the Porte.

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No. 567.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15, 2·10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 15, 1876, 11·56 A.M.

THE official acceptance of the Conference by the German Government has been telegraphed to German Ambassadors in London and at Constantinople.

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No. 568.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 15, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

I HAVE told Sir A. Kemball that, after the demarcation of the positions for the two armies near Alexinatz, it will not be necessary for him to accompany the Delegates along the southern and western frontiers of Servia and into Bosnia, and that he can entrust that duty to Major Gonne.

I should be glad to be informed whether your Lordship thinks it necessary that Sir A. Kemball should remain at the Turkish head-quarters to watch over the observance of the armistice till Major Gonne can return there. The point might be (perhaps ?) left to his discretion.

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No. 568A.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 15, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

HOW should repayment be made of Sir A. Kemball's expenses?

He had to provide himself with horses, tents, and other necessaries, for which he paid.

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No. 568B.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15, *at night,*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 15, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated Ragusa, to-day :—

"The Military Delegates will hold their first formal sitting on Saturday.

"The provisioning of Nichsich—not of the garrison, but of the population of the town—will be one of the first questions.

"Is this a question upon which the Delegates have, by their instructions, the power to decide?

"The British Delegate, as the senior officer, will probably assume Presidency of the Commission, if it be necessary to appoint a President.

"Is there any objection to Commission meeting at the Russian Consulate?"

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No. 572*.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 10, 1876, 6 P.M.

VERY good accommodation has been secured for Lord Salisbury at an hotel lately opened, which is the best here, but two of the gentlemen will probably have to be lodged elsewhere.

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No. 569.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 15, 1876, 5 P.M.

AFTER review held here to-day, Emperor addressed his staff and officers of the Guards. Referring to mobilization, His Majesty remarked that he hoped it would not soon be the turn of the Guards to mobilize. He publicly thanked Grand Duke Nicholas for the efficient state of the Guards, and announced that he was to command the active army, and that he would leave St. Petersburgh with the best wishes of all for the success of his Imperial Highness and the army under his orders. To-day's official "Gazette" prohibits the exportation of horses along western frontier of Russia, and extending prohibition to Black and Azoff Seas until further notice.

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No. 570.

*Mr. Jerningham to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 16, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Darmstadt, November* 16, 1876, 8 A.M.

BARON STARCK, Minister for Foreign Affairs here, informed me confidentially last night that Count Lamorawnay [*sic*], Italian Minister at Berlin, who is here for a day, told him he had good reason to believe that Prince Bismarck was decided to pronounce himself very shortly in the question of Turkey and Russia.

I send your Lordship the intelligence for what it is worth.

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No. 571.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876, 4·48 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government are greatly surprised at not receiving the Porte's answer about the Conference. They cannot believe that after the urgent manner in which they have pressed it on the acceptance of the Porte as the only alternative left for the averting of war, the Porte will refuse, and the delay in the acceptance is becoming both unfriendly to Her Majesty's Government and dangerous to the preservation of peace. If this last chance is allowed to pass Her Majesty's Government will be compelled to withdraw all support and countenance from the Porte in future negotiations.

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No. 572.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 16, 5·57 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 16, 1876, 4 P.M.

I HAVE sent following to Mr. Monson:—

"I have received your telegram to Sir A. Buchanan.

"Arrangements about provisions for Niehsich ought to be made between Turkish Commanders and the Prince of Montenegro.

"General Ignatiew is telegraphing to the Prince of Montenegro to facilitate it.

"I see no reason against [*sic*] Delegates meeting at the house of the Russian Consul."

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No. 573.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 16, 1876, 6·15 P.M.

OFFICIAL answer to the invitation to the Conference will not be given till Saturday afternoon, as a Grand Council has to pronounce upon it.

There is, however, no doubt of its acceptance.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 574.

*Mr. Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 16, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, November 16, 1876, 7·10 P.M.*

I LEAVE for Constantinople on the 18th. I have told Mr. Freeman to come and take charge of this Consulate as more important at present than Mostar.

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No. 575.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 16, 1876, midnight.*

EMPEROR ALEXANDER having, it is believed, objected to General Tchernaieff coming back to Russia in any other than a private capacity, some Servian notable will be sent to that Court as Envoy soon, probably M. Marinovitch.

Many Russian volunteers have gone home; and though some acts of violence and brutality are attributed to them, it is almost impossible to bring these home to them. Volunteers have become highly unpopular with the people; those who are willing to remain here will, for the present, constitute principal force at Belgrade and in some other towns.

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No. 576.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 17, 1876.*

RUSSIA mobilizes six corps d'armée, four of which constitute active army, and two corps d'armée army of observation.

Troops mobilized amount to about 160,000 men and 648 guns.

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No. 577.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 17, 1876, 2 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has been prevented by indisposition from proceeding further than Pesth, where his physicians wish him to remain for two days. It is believed here that he will therefore return to Vienna as soon as he can travel.

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No. 578.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 17, 1876.*

AS it appears certain from a telegram just received from the Foreign Office that the Porte will accept the Conference, I am anxious to know if Lord Salisbury is to come to Vienna, and if so, when he may be expected.

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No. 579.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 17, 1876, 5·40 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY will probably be at Paris Monday evening.

Procure all facilities.

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No. 580.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 17, 1876, 5·20 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY will probably be at Berlin late on Wednesday night, and remain Thursday.

Procure all facilities.

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No. 581.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 17, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY will probably be at Vienna Friday evening.

Procure all facilities.

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No. 582.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 17, 1876, 6 P.M.*

THE German Embassy has informed me that the German Government consent to the English programme for negotiations at Constantinople, and have authorized accordingly the Ambassador, Baron von Werther, to take part there in the deliberations.

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No. 583.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 17, 1876.*

PRINCE BISMARCK writes that he will make it a point to come to Berlin to see Lord Salisbury.

Prince Bismarck would therefore be very much obliged if your Lordship could let him know on what day Lord Salisbury proposes to arrive in Berlin.

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No. 584.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 17, 1876, 5·12 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY is better, but is not expected here before Sunday.

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No. 585.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 17, 1876, 10·38 P.M.*

I MENTIONED in my previous telegrams that Emperor would be absent from Berlin from the 22nd to the 25th instant.

Lord Salisbury would not, therefore, find the Emperor at Berlin. His Majesty is most anxious to see his Lordship.

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[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Lord Lyons, Lord A. Loftus, Sir H. Elliot, and Sir A. Paget.

No. 586.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 18, 2·29 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 17, 1876, 10·50 P.M.

RUSSIAN Government have received from the Minister at Tehran and the Governor-General of Turkestan information of Afghan armaments, which are reported by them as directed against Turkomans and Merve; 10,000 men are said to be assembled at Herat, exclusive of cavalry. Cannon foundry established at Herat.

I am informed by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs that Afghan incursions are taking place in the direction of Wakhan on Bokharan districts, which may produce difficulties with that Khanate. Governor-General is trying to arbitrate between the Turcomans and the Khan of Khiva in order to prevent renunciation of the Government by the Khan in favour of Russia.

Russian Government deny any wish or intention to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan, but they seem to fear the Afghan expedition against Merve.

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No. 587.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*[8]—(*Received November* 18, 12·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 18, 1876, 10·40 A.M.

M. MARINOVITCH goes to St. Petersburgh to-morrow on a special mission, and the Russian Consul-General goes there at the same time, while the Austrian proceeds to Vienna by order of his Minister for Foreign Affairs.

It is generally admitted here, that Servia is so exhausted as to hardly be able to resume hostilities, and as Russian-Turkish war is believed imminent, and the neutrality of Austria almost assured, an arrangement making provision for the position of Servia in different contigences will be welcome here.

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No. 588.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1876.

IT will be a cause of sincere regret to Lord Salisbury that he should miss seeing the Emperor on his passage through Berlin. But it seems impossible for him to delay his journey. The armistice has scarcely a month to run, and every day becomes of importance. Please explain this.

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No. 589.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

IF all goes well, Lord Salisbury will probably arrive at Constantinople on the 1st or 2nd of December.

You may now instruct Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, to be there to meet him.

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No. 590.

*Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 18, *evening.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, November* 18, 1876.

A RUMOUR is repeated here in Court and Ministerial circles that on June 26 last a secret Treaty was signed between Russia and Germany by which the former undertook to cede her Baltic provinces to the latter, provided Germany used not only



her influence but would also bring a pressure to bear on Austria which would prevent that Power from participating in the war.

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No. 591.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 18, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 18, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has officially signified to me that, with unanimous sanction of Grand Council, the Porte agrees to Conference.

His Excellency added that the acceptance is accompanied by a few reservations, such as that the measures to be proposed by the Conference shall not interfere with the mechanism of the general administration.

This is done with the view of justifying the Government in the eyes of the Turkish public, but no real importance is attached to it by the Porte.

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No. 592.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November* 18, 1876.

A REPORT is current that an encounter, with loss of life on both sides, occurred the day before yesterday at Dinoshi, near Medun, between some Albanian peasants and the Montenegrins.

The last belonged doubtless to the Koutchi tribe, who now consider themselves Montenegrins.

The speedy (?) demarkation of territory held by each side is highly desirable.

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No. 593.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 19, *morning.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Constantinople, November* 18, 1876, *night.*

FOLLOWING are the conditions which I understand General Igontiew to consider should be obtained for the insurgent provinces:—

1. Disarmament of Mussulmans.
2. Employment of none excepting native functionaries, chiefly chosen on principle of election.
3. Formation of a local militia and police with Christians in proportion to their numbers.
4. Prohibition of irregulars and expulsion of Circassians to Mussulman provinces.
5. Turkish troops to be confined within the fortresses.
6. Abolition of tithes and settlement of taxes by the people.
7. Official employment of local language.
8. Christian Governors approved by Powers named for five years.
9. Detail of local autonomy to be determined after consultation with persons lately sent to Bulgaria by the Embassies.
10. Direct European control over the execution of measures.
11. Severe inquiry with participation of Consuls into late outrages, punishment of the real culprits, and indemnity to the families of the victims.

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No. 594.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received November* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 19, 1876.

RUSSIAN squadron in the Mediterranean have sailed for America for security in the event of war.

Russian internal loan for a nominal hundred millions of roubles is officially published in this morning's paper.

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No. 595.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 19, 1876.*

THE Emperor is graciously pleased to say he will endeavour to receive Lord Salisbury on Thursday morning, if possible.

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No. 596.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 19, 1876.*

I THINK it certain that Count Andrassy will return to Vienna before Friday, but it was only known at the Foreign Office to-day that he is not yet able to leave Pesth.

I shall go there to-morrow with the hope of seeing him, and shall telegraph from thence.

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No. 597.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 19, 1876.*

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with the official acceptance by the Porte, as reported in Sir H. Elliot's telegram of yesterday, of the Conference proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

A telegram on the subject has been already received from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador which mentioned, among reservations, that Porte would admit of no infringement of independence of the Empire.

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No. 598.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 19, 1876, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 9th instant, Lord Salisbury will arrive at Constantinople, if all goes well, on the 1st or 2nd of December. You are to proceed there so as to meet him on his arrival.

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No. 599.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20, 4·12 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 20, 1876, 3·10 P.M.*

THE Russian Consul-General has notified their Majesty's Consulate-General here that ships are prohibited from approaching by night the harbours of Odessa, Wet (?) Sebastopol (*sic*), as well as the mouths of the Dnieper and the Strait of Kertch-Yenikale. Before attempting to enter these ports by day ships are to stop and communicate with the guard-ship at anchor outside them, with pilots to guide them through the impediments which have been laid down in those passages. The entrance of the above-named ports without the assistance of the guard ship is absolutely prohibited.

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No. 600.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 20, 1876, 4·20 P.M.*

MODIFICATION of Ministry possible with M. Kostaki Puriano [*sic*], as President with majority in Cabinet.

M. Bratiano, perhaps, remains as Minister of the Interior.

Policy: troops sent home, unarmed neutrality. Roumania will only take arms in event Austrian-English alliance for maintenance of Treaty of Paris of 1836.

Mr. Kostaki honest and capable.

Please not communicate Prince John Ghika.

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No. 601.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 20, 1876.*

I LEARN from Count Andrassy that he will go to Vienna to-morrow and await the arrival of Lord Salisbury there.

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No. 602.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 20, 1876.*

THE Austrian Agent at Belgrade has not been called here, as supposed by Mr. White. He asked leave for a month, and having been only granted a week has not availed himself of it.

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No. 603.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 20, 1876.*

A SECOND Austrian Plenipotentiary will be appointed to the Conference, but as Count Andrassy wishes to select Austrian Agent at Bucharest, whom he considers specially qualified for the duty, he can only give him the rank of a Minister Plenipotentiary.

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No. 604.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, November 20, 1876.*

GERMAN Military Agent here told Captain Wellesley this morning that Emperor of Russia stated to him yesterday that he had no knowledge of Lord Beaconsfield's speech when he addressed deputations at Moscow.

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No. 605.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received November 21, 1·17 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 20, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF will receive a despatch for communication to your Lordship, in reply to that of October 30, of which following is *précis*:—

* Repeated to Embassies.

Prince Gortchakow places on record efforts of Imperial Cabinet for preservation of peace, throwing on England responsibility of arresting united action of Powers by refusing Berlin Memorandum. He hails with satisfaction your desire for mutual understanding, and promises support of Russia in Conference for attainment of a pacific solution.

Both Governments are agreed as to necessity of terminating deplorable state of affairs in Turkey, of securing efficacious amelioration of Christians by serious practical measures, and of guarantees for their execution.

Divergence exists as to means for attaining this aim. Her Majesty's Government seeks to reconcile it with Treaty stipulations of 1856, which have continually paralyzed European action, and thus allowed Turkey to perpetuate with impunity a system ruinous to Christians and disastrous to European peace. He cites as partially successful instances of departure from these stipulations, Syrian intervention, United Principalities, Servia, Candia; and reminds that Russia has for twenty years warned Europe of the consequences.

Facts have now irrefutably proved the evil to be incurable; if the Powers desire serious result, they must agree that the independence of Turkey shall be subordinate to the guarantees demanded by humanity, Christian Europe, and interests of peace.

Porte having first violated Treaty engagements of 1856, Europe has the right and duty to dictate sole conditions on which it will maintain political *status quo*, and to substitute its own action for Porte's incapacity. Russia cannot agree to half measures, such as have reacted on Russian internal tranquillity and prosperity. She considers question one of general interest, and earnestly seeks European concert for its pacific solution; she has no exclusive interests, and has given the most solemn assurances to that effect; and Prince suggested publication of my report of my conversation with Emperor.

He ends by expressing hope for common agreement of the two Governments to prevent bases of pacification remaining as hitherto a dead letter—a constant peril to relations of two countries, as well as to European peace.

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No. 606.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.)

*Vienna, November 20, 1876.*

THE version received by Count Andrassy of the eleven proposals expected from General Ignatiew varies in some respects from that in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, but is essentially the same.

He declined expressing an opinion upon them before they have been made (? public), unless I would consider it strictly confidential, and engage that it should not be sent to Lord A. Loftus.

He then said that a snake (?) may be found in each proposal. The first could only be accomplished by an occupation of provinces.

The second proposed a system of appointing functionaries which Russia would not adopt herself, and which is not general for all functionaries in other countries.

He made no observation on the third.

With regard to the fourth he seemed to think it would be unreasonable to impose on the Porte the difficult task of removing 100,000 Circassians into Asia.

He said that he had objected to the fifth at Berlin, as the Porte should merely be asked to quarter its troops, so as to avoid collisions with the Christians.

The sixth was probably taken from the note of December, and he would not object to its principle if fairly carried.

The seventh would not only occasion inconvenience (? to) central Government, but each population in a province of mixed races would object to language of others being employed.

With respect to the eighth, he said that if Christian Governors are to be natives of the provinces qualified persons could not be found.

He does not understand how the ninth is to be carried, nor how the wishes, opinions, or requirements of the populations are to be ascertained, and who is to be responsible for them.

He considers the direct control proposed by No. 10, if it extends beyond Consuls

No. 608*.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 21, 1876.*

THE Emperor desires me to inform Lord Salisbury that he will receive his Lordship on Thursday at 1 o'clock. Prince Bismarck will be at Lord Salisbury's disposal on Wednesday evening if convenient to his Lordship.

I have repeated telegram to Paris.





or Commissioners reporting to their Governments, incompatible with the independence and sovereignty of the Sultan.

He said that the object of General Ignatiew will be to arrange for the Slav being the dominant element in the mixed populations in the whole country between the Danube and the Mediterranean, and that, in his opinion, England and Austria should rather promote the interests and influence of Greeks.

No. 607.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 21, 1876.*

MAY not the despatch of the Russian Mediterranean Squadron to America, reported by Lord A. Loftus, be with a view not only to its safety but to oblige England in the event of war with Russia to send a naval force across the Atlantic to watch it?

No. 608.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21, 3 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 21, 1876, noon.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW'S despatch, of which I sent your Lordship *précis* yesterday, has been published *in extenso* in "Journal de St. Petersbourg" of this morning, as also private letter addressed to Russian Ambassador at London of the 3rd instant.

No. 609.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 21, 1876.*

IT strikes me that as Lord Salisbury goes to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, the Italian Government will feel hurt if he does not also visit Rome. Any offence taken by them might influence conduct of their Representative in the Conference; and they are extremely sensitive as to Italians being treated as a great Power.

I have mentioned this to Lord Salisbury. He desires to be entirely guided with regard to it by instructions from Her Majesty's Government. It would not be any personal inconvenience to him to go to Rome, but he should know your decision as soon as possible in order to make arrangements. He begs you to telegraph your answer direct to him.

No. 610.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 21, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 21, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs asks me to express hope that at the meetings of the Representatives before the Conference there may be only general discussions and exchange of views, but no decision taken. He trusts that measures to be adopted may be fairly discussed at the Conference itself and not be merely submitted to it for formal ratification.

No. 611.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22, 2·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pera, November 22, 1876, 12·30 P.M.*

THE President of the Danube Commission is ordered to Bucharest to inform Roumanian Government of the answer that the Porte is prepared to make to the demands of which the substance was given in Mr. St. John's despatch of July 1st.

The answer is favourable as regards all the demands except second and seventh, which, as affecting matters depending on the Treaties, Porte declares itself incompetent to deal with.

Sir Stephen Lakeman, who left yesterday, made proposals for putting the Roumanian army at the disposal of the Porte. He stated himself to be acting under secret instructions from M. Bratiano, whose views Ali Bey is desired confidentially to ascertain.

Consider this very confidential.

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No. 612.

*The Earl of Derby to the Marquis of Salisbury.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1876, 5·8 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government think it as well that you should go to Rome on your way.

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No. 613.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1876, 5·35 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY will go to Rome on his way to Brindisi.

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No. 614.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 22, 1876.*

CAPTAIN WELLESLEY has received intelligence that military circle of Moscow is about to be mobilized.

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No. 615.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 22, 1876, 5·40 P.M.*

COLONEL HOME has called my attention to extreme importance of securing telegraphic communication between England and Constantinople in the event of our being involved in war with Russia.

None of the existing lines would offer any security, which could, however, be obtained by a cable from Malta to Crete, which is in communication with Constantinople.

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[a] A similar telegram to Sir A. Paget.



No. 616.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 22, 1876, 6 P.M.*

THE Constitution will probably be promulgated within a few days.

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No. 617.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 22, 1876, 6 P.M.*

THE export of horses from Austria-Hungary is prohibited by a Ministerial Decree dated yesterday.

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No. 618.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23, 2·51 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 23, 1876, 2·40 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY'S intended visit to Rome gives great satisfaction to Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Chaudordy is expected here daily.

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No. 619.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received November 23, 2·53 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 23, 1876, 1·45 P.M.*

EDHEM PASHA, Turkish Ambassador at Berlin, will be the second Turkish Plenipotentiary at the Conference.

Minister for Foreign Affairs was alarmed at the report that he was not to be permitted to be President. I said to him I had no reason to suppose usual practice would be departed from.

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No. 620.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 23, 1876.*

WOULD there be any objection to Monson's coming away from Ragusa during armistice and Conference?

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No. 621.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 23, 1876, 6 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of to-day, regret to put Mr. Monson to any inconvenience, but the Conference being opened will not put an end to the necessity of having a British Representative who can communicate with the Prince of Montenegro. It may be more necessary than ever.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 622.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 23, 1876, 6·50 P.M.*

THE following appears in to-day's "Times," in a letter from the special correspondent, dated Pera, November 17, and telegraphed from Vienna:—

"It appears that, upon the suggestion and encouragement of Sir H. Elliot, the Grand Vizier is still bent on putting forward certain restrictions which it will probably not be difficult for the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers to overrule.

"Sir Henry Elliot observed that, although Her Majesty's Government was the original proposer of certain reforms and liberties to be bestowed upon the disturbed provinces, all necessity to insist upon them had been in a great measure removed by the scheme of constitutional government projected by Midhat Pasha, and now under discussion by the General Council.

"Sir H. Elliot urged besides that Turkey would come all the easier out of the ordeal of the Conference the readier she showed herself to stand upon her rights, by proving that she might have in any extremity force on her side."

The "Times'" correspondent goes on to say that, "acting upon the strength of these arguments, the Porte is making preparations for war."

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No. 623.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 23, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram *en clair* of to-day, Her Majesty's Government wish to deny the reports of the "Times'" correspondent, which they do not doubt are incorrect.

Telegraph reply immediately.

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No. 624.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 24, 1876.*

I HAVE been asked here whether, as the Conference is to meet at Constantinople at the invitation of Her Majesty's Government, and not at that of the Porte, it will not be right that the Resident Ambassadors and Ministers should have special full powers to take part in it.

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No. 625.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, November 24, 1876.*

FROM information received here from the Russian Ambassador it is understood that the objects of M. Marinovich's mission to Petersburgh are, firstly, to explain to the Emperor the causes of the failure of Servian campaign, and endeavour to obtain some satisfaction to the army for the manner in which His Majesty spoke of it at Moscow; and, secondly, to show that the country is so exhausted that peace is absolutely necessary for it.

It is also believed here that Russian Agent is accompanying M. Marinovich with a view to prevent, if possible, his being compromised by revelations which M. Marinovich might make as to the language and proceedings before the outbreak of the war.

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No. 626.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 24, 1876, 3 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated to-day:—

"The line of demarcation settled by the Commission gives to Montenegrins, or neutrals, all that they claimed.

"Niehsich and the Edga Pass are declared blockaded.

"(Mouktar?) Pasha assures me that the Turks cannot consent to this line, and he is exceeding dissatisfied at the proceedings.

"The Austrian and the Russian delegates are going to Zaslap; the British and the French to Podgoritza.

"They will start on Sunday or Monday."

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No. 627.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24, 3·29 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 24, 1876, 1·40 P.M.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY learned that, in addition to the last report, following have received orders to mobilize:—Four divisions of infantry and fifteen regiments of cavalry in the Caucasus, and brigadier of divisions of infantry in the Moscow circle.

Two companies of sailors of the guard-ship are to be sent to the south, with boats, launches, and material for crossing the Danube. Another detachment, similarly equipped, will be sent from the Black Sea.

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No. 628.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24, 6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 24, 1876, 3·40 P.M.*

THE language attributed to me by the "Times'" correspondent, mentioned in your Lordship's telegram, is as incorrect as much that proceeds from the same source. The statement that I advised the Grand Vizier to bring forward reserves or restrictions is the exact reverse of the truth, and I have never intimated that the scheme of constitutional Government removes the necessity for the reforms and liberties proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the disturbed provinces; but I have said that when the new measures are published, with which we are not yet acquainted, it will be necessary to see whether they confer upon the provinces in question that which was demanded for them. For months past I have been urging the Porte to lose no time in removing the disabilities under which the Christians labour. The statement that I have urged that Turkey would come all the easier out of the ordeal of the Conference by holding herself ready to stand upon her rights, and by proving that she might at any time have force on her side, is absolutely false. The "Times'" correspondent has no communications with any member of Her Majesty's Embassy, and must obtain his pretended information respecting my language from a source deserving of no credit.

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No. 629.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 24, 1876, 6 P.M.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows, dated to-day:—

"With reference to my telegram of this morning, Moukhtar Pasha has sent orders to Niehsich that the inhabitants may go without escort to Gatzko to get provisions, and throws on the Montenegrins all the responsibility of any conflict that may arise in consequence.

"This will be formally notified to the Commission this afternoon."

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No. 630.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25, morning.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 24, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I PROPOSE to leave this on Sunday morning next for Constantinople, and shall leave the affairs of the Consulate provisionally in the hands of Mr. Cumberbatch, who was sent to assist me by Sir H. Elliot.

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No. 631.

*Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25, 4 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, November 25, 1876, 2 P.M.*

PREVENTED leaving last week by severe illness. I leave to-day for Constantinople.

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No. 632.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 25, 6·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 25, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

I AM assured by Baron Orczy, with reference to Mr. Monson's report of yesterday as to the blockade of Nichsich, that an arrangement has been come to for victualling it during the armistice, as it would be a departure from the *statu quo ante* if it were forced to capitulate by famine.

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No. 633.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received November 25, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, November 25, 1876, 1·55 P.M.*

I LEARN from a confidential and reliable source that the letter of the German Emperor to the Emperor of Russia, of which General Werder was the bearer, contained renewed assurances of His Imperial Majesty's moral support, and in the event of war assurance of the same attitude towards Russia as Russia had taken towards Germany during war with France, which is tantamount to enforcing neutrality on Austria.

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No. 634.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 25, 1876, midnight.*

FOLLOWING telegram from Monson to-day:—

"The Russian Agent in Montenegro passed through Ragusa this afternoon on his way to St. Petersburgh direct.

"He was met here by a special messenger from Constantinople with despatches from General Ignatiew.

"He spoke of war as now a certainty."

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.



No. 635.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26, 5·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, November 26, 1876, noon.*

ANSWER to your Lordship's question respecting additional Consuls required on behalf of British interests depends upon the meaning attached to that expression.

For the purpose of keeping Her Majesty's Government fully informed upon the state of things in Turkey a large increase would be necessary.

In Europe there should be a Consul of Janina and Vice-Consul at Monastir, Useup, Sophia, Widdin, Varna, and Burgas.

The present incumbents at Adrianople and Kustendji are very inefficient.

In Asia we should be the better (for?) Vice-Consuls at Brussa, Angora, Diarbekir, and Moussul, and, if war were probable, at the ports of the Black Sea.

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No. 636.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 27, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 27, 1876, 7 P.M.*

I HAVE asked, with reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram to Colonel Mansfield of the 22nd instant, whether it is not possible that the Roumanian Government may make common cause with Turkey in the event of a war between the Porte and Russia.

I was told in reply that, according to all the information received here, such a course has never been thought of at Bucharest, and that, on the contrary, there is every reason to believe that a complete understanding has been come to between Prince Charles and Petersburgh, though a protest may be made against the entrance of Russian troops into the Principalities.

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No. 637.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November , 1876.*

IN reply to your telegram of 18th instant, a special credential has been given to Lord Salisbury, but he has authority to use it or not as he thinks best. Under any circumstances, he should have an audience of the Sultan.

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No. 638.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 28, 1876.*

A SPECIAL full power to attend the Conference has been given jointly to Lord Salisbury and Sir Henry Elliot, and a separate general full power also given to the latter.

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No. 639.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29, 1·57 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November 29, 1876, 11 A.M.*

COLONEL LENNOX and colleagues reached this last night; left this morning for Podgoritza.

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No. 640.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 29, 1876.*

AS it is believed that the Prince of Montenegro will accompany the Princess to Naples, when details of armistice are settled, might Mr. Monson leave Ragusa, should he wish to do so, during His Highness's absence? Monson has not applied for this favour, but I believe that he would feel grateful for it.

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No. 641.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 29, 1876, 6 P.M.*

IF Prince Nicholas leaves Montenegro, Monson may leave Ragusa, but he should be within reach so as to go back if required.

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No. 642.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1876, 7·40 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY will embark at Brindisi to-morrow night on board the Austrian Lloyd's steamer "Aurora" for Constantinople, flying an Ambassador's flag. Procure any necessary facilities for passing the Dardanelles.

I have suggested to Admiralty to inform Admiral Drummond, and that the stationary British gunboat at Constantinople might go to meet and escort the "Aurora" on her approaching Constantinople.

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No. 643.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 1, 12·20 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 1, 1876, 11·40 A.M.*

M. DE CHAUDORDY, who arrived two days ago, has no letters accrediting him to the Sultan, and consequently will not have an official audience.

I should be glad to know whether Lord Salisbury is accredited to the Sultan as Special Ambassador, as I wish to prepare the Porte for receiving him properly.

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No. 644.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 1, 4·51 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 1, 1876, 4 P.M.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS left Petersburgh this afternoon for Kischeneff to take command of the active army.

It is thought that he will return here after reviewing and inspecting army.

French Military Attaché accompanies Grand Duke at his Imperial Highness' invitation.

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No. 645.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 1, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 1, 1876, 4·30 P.M.*

A CIRCULAR has been sent by the Porte to the Turkish Representatives, in answer to Prince Gortchakow's despatch of the 13th ultimo, which was communicated by General Ignatiew.



Its tone is very moderate. The original draft contained a sentence throwing upon Russia the responsibility of a war, if one should occur, and another declaring that the Porte would never consent to any special privileges for particular provinces, or to anything that would touch the independence and dignity of the Sultan, but both have, at my suggestion, been suppressed.

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No. 646.

*Mr. Currie to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Brindisi, December 1, 1876.*

LORD SALISBURY wishes for Consul Moore to act as interpreter. Please order him to Constantinople immediately.

Messenger starts from Brindisi to-morrow with despatches and private letters (*sic*). Interviews at Vienna, Rome, will arrive Tuesday.

We start to-night.

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No. 647.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2, 1 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 1, 1876, 1·5 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY left Rome by special train at eight this morning for Brindisi, where he is timed to arrive at 11·20 this evening.

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No. 648.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, December 2, 1876, 7·30 A.M.*

I ASKED Count Andrassy yesterday what Prince Gortchakow could have meant by stating to Lord A. Loftus that he had not proposed that the Herzegovina should be occupied by Austria, but that it should have formed a neutral zone between Russian troops in Bulgaria and the Austrian in Bosnia. His Excellency said that as the proposal to occupy Turkish territory had been declined *in limine*, he was not aware that Russia intended it to be limited to Bosnia, but that his Highness must have forgotten his geography when he spoke of the Herzegovina forming a neutral zone between Bosnia and Bulgaria. He may have intended that Prince Nicholas should occupy the Herzegovina, and if so, his Highness probably expected that the occupation would terminate in an annexation.

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No. 649.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, December 2, 1876, 7·45 A.M.*

I WAS told yesterday by Count Andrassy that his last accounts from Russia represent opinions of higher classes and the Ministers as opposed to war with Turkey, and the army as showing no enthusiasm in favour of it.

He is not (without hope?) therefore, from these circumstances, and the financial difficulty, that peace may yet be preserved.

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No. 650.

*Consul Grant to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 2, 11·8 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Brindisi, December 2, 1876, 9·30 A.M.*

LORD SALISBURY left at seven this morning. Expects to arrive Dardanelles about 11 P.M. on Monday, and Constantinople about noon on Tuesday.

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No. 651.

*Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Tyflis, December 2, 1876.*

ONE thousand men arrived at Poti by steamer; 2,000 more expected; 1,500 from Russia gone to frontier. Much sickness at Alexandropol; roads bad; despatches 2 to 4 sent.

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No. 652.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2, 5·10 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 2, 1876, 2:30 P.M.*

I HAVE received following figures from Tiflis by post dated 23rd instant.

"I hear that 40,000 men are expected shortly to arrive at Tiflis from Russia; they will come in detachments of 2,000 a-day. It would seem that Russia means assuming offensive operations on this frontier. There are on frontier 40,000 men and 18 batteries; if this reinforcement arrives, it will give a total of 80,000 men."

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No. 653.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 2, 1876, 6 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of 1st instant, a special credential has been given to Lord Salisbury, but he has authority to use it or not as he thinks best. Under any circumstances he should have had an audience of the Sultan.

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No. 654.

*Consul Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 2, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Sentari, December 2, 1876.*

COLONEL LENNOX and colleagues having terminated their work on Turkish territory, have this day left Jablak for Cettigné.

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No. 655.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received December 4, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 4, 1876, 7 P.M.*

PUBLICATION of Constitution has been delayed by disagreement in the Ministry about some of the Articles, but progress is being made.

General Ignatiew to-day told Minister for Foreign Affairs that the proposed publication would be an affront and defiance to the European Powers.

Europe means to propose certain measures for particular provinces, and would not take into account any proposals of the Porte referring to the general administration of the Empire, and which were brought forward only for the purpose of defeating the object of the Conference.

* Repeated to Embassies.



Minister for Foreign Affairs answered that the Constitution was being framed without reference to the Conference, and had been taken in hand before there was a question of it.

The country had suffered so much under the system followed during the late reign, that it was necessary to provide securities against the repetition of the abuses.

He reminded the Ambassador that he had asked him without success what his Government proposed to demand for the insurgent provinces.

He hoped that the Constitution would be found to confer the securities expected for the populations, but he could not admit (the?) intended Conference for bringing about a pacification to be a reason for withholding what is necessary for the proper administration of the whole Empire.

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No. 656.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 5, 2·10 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 5, 1876, 12·50 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY arrived at 9 this morning after a good passage.

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No. 657.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic) *Foreign Office, December 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

INSTRUCT Consul Moore to come to Constantinople to act as Interpreter to Lord Salisbury.

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No. 658.

*Mr. Currie to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 5, 1876.*

WE arrived this morning at 9 o'clock.

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No. 659.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December 6, 1876.*

PRINCE BISMARCK'S speech, which is a repetition and development of what he said to Lord Salisbury, has produced a favourable impression in Berlin.

Emperor tells me that he has good news from St. Petersburgh. The peace party are gaining strength and supporting Czar in his wish to solve question without going to war.

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No. 660.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 6, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1876, 6·45 P.M.*

AN attempt to carry off the ex-Sultan Murad and the next brother of the present Sultan was made last night.

Two Turks, one Pole, disguised as a Turkish woman, and a Greek, formerly Capoonglan* of Her Majesty's Embassy, were arrested, and there was a steamer ready off the Palace.

In their depositions they all told the same improbable story ( ), acting under the direction of the first dragoman of the Russian Embassy.

* *Sic.*

No. 661.

*Mr. Currie to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 6, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1876, 7·10 P.M.*

SIR H. ELLIOT thinks Consul Moore only knows Arab, so it is arranged that Blunt, who is here, should be Lord Salisbury's interpreter.

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No. 662.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received following from Belgrade:—

"French Consul and also myself just received reliable information that Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs about to make representation to Powers that Servia should be represented in the Conference. M. Hecquard guarantees statement, requesting you should not state information came through him."

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No. 663.

*Lord Tenterden to Mr. Currie.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 7, 1876, 5·20 P.M.*

LORD DERBY approves Mr. Blunt acting as interpreter instead of Mr. Moore.

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No. 664.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Derby.*[1]*—(Received December 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 8, 1876.*

INTERVIEWS have produced following provisional propositions from General Ignatiew:—

Bulgaria, one province, covers nearly all coloured yellow in Kiepert's map, except Varna, Adrianople, Wodenlux. Christian Governor holding office five years named by Porte with assent of Powers. Provincial functionaries elected by Cantonal Councillors. Governor appoints Prefects of Departments, Christian or Mussulman, according to predominant creed. Cantonal Councillors (elected?) by people. Mayors named by Governor from three elected candidates. Cantons contain about 10,000 people, grouped, if possible, by creeds. Mayors small cause Judges, larger Tribunals in each department, Court of Appeal in province. Judges partly elected, partly appointed, three years on probation, then for life. Religious causes go to Ecclesiastical Courts of several creeds. Militia and police contain Christians proportionately to population. Governor appoints officers. Functionaries, if Mussulmans, must be natives. Local language in Tribunals and administration. Tithes fixed sums paid by Canton which distributes burden.

Punishment of atrocities; irregular troops disbanded. Amnesty of Christians. Turkish troops remain in fortified places, unless required by Governor. Importation by Porte of Circassians to cease; those already imported to be induced, where possible, to return to Asia. Porte to engage for all reforms in Protocol. Mussulmans to be disarmed. International Commission to arrange all details and secure execution, and to have sufficient material force to make decisions respected and preserve tranquillity.

These last demands are a great difficulty. General Ignatiew now proposes force should be 6,000 Belgians or Italians. Have promised to report proposition, but have not encouraged.

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[1] Repeated to Embassies.



No. 665.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 9, 1876.*

CONSUL WHITE'S assistance is very important to me at present, therefore I have kept him.

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No. 666.

*Colonel Lennox to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 9, 3·45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, December 9, 1876, 3 P.M.*

FROM telegram received from Constantinople by a colleague, it seems that I and my colleagues are to arrange the armistice boundary between Turkey and Bosnia. If so, as your letter of the 2nd November only appoints me delegate between Turkey and Montenegro, new powers are apparently requisite.

With reference to your letter of the same date, I should then require a cypher.

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No. 667.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, December 9, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador stated to me last night that he saw Count Andrassy after Lord Salisbury left Vienna, and that his Excellency told him that the Porte must object in the Conference to any proposals which may appear to prejudice its interests and independence.

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No. 668.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 10, 1·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 10, 1876, 10·45 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, might not some modification of system in Russia of appointing military and civil Governors to the provinces facilitate distribution of power between Mussulmans and Christians in a way acceptable to the Porte? I go to Pesth this evening, and hope to see Count Andrassy to-morrow.

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No. 669.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 10, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December 10, 1876, 1·30 P.M.*

AM I to acquaint Minister for Foreign Affairs with Lord Salisbury's information, and inquire the views of the Italian Government?

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No. 670.

*Mr. Corbett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 10, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berne, December 10, 1876, 4·15 P.M.*

REPORT current that enrolments are being made by British Government near Sivas frontier. Applications to Legation have recommenced. Is report true?

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No. 671.

*Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, December* 10, 1876.

FIVE thousand men arrived in Caucasus since 1st; also much ammunition. Reinforcement expected. Force on frontier said to be 40,000 infantry, 8,000 cavalry, 2 batteries. At Tiflis 9,000 infantry, 6 batteries.

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No. 672.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 11.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, December* 11, 1876.

I HAVE had conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs to-day respecting General Ignatiew's proposals. He considers that their adoption would be the first step towards the decomposition of Turkey without affording even the probability of a short respite from the anxiety at present prevailing as to the future. Besides, the geographical partiality of the scheme is not only seriously Muscovite on account of this, but also because it is directed against the future independence and development of Greek population, and is merely intended to promote Panslavist and Russian interests. Dividing the Mussulmans and the Christians into separate cantons could only be effected by force and by violating the rightful property, and shutting up the Turkish garrisons in fortresses would increase the animosity of the Turks and Christians. As to the employment of a foreign force, he would, I think, object to Italians, but while he inclines 6,000 men insufficient for the purpose proposed, he asks who is to pay their expenses or those of a larger one.

The whole scheme, in his opinion, goes too far, as an attempt to create out of Eastern elements a perfect system of administration on a European model must end in failure, whereas a more modest plan, accepting what exists and merely reforming abuses and providing for the protection of the Christians and securing them equal rights with the Mussulmans, but leaving the Central Power sufficient authority to maintain order, would gradually bring about the civilization of the country.

He appears to have been informed that Lord Salisbury looks favourably on General Ignatiew's plans, but I assured him that as yet his Lordship had given no reason to hope that they would meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. He said that he was glad to hear this, as everything would depend on their decision, for though he is prepared to support them in resisting proposals prejudicial to the stability of the Turkish Empire, he could not oppose measures which they, in concert with Russia and Germany, might consider necessary to promote prosperity of the Christians.

He had hoped, however, that the Porte was to be allowed to make its own arrangements with Montenegro for rectifying their frontiers without the question being brought before the Conference which would have interfered eventually, if necessary. But this being a matter of detail, he does not attach much importance to it, whereas he trusts that Her Majesty's Government agree with him that General Ignatiew's scheme is pregnant with danger and will lead to new complications in the distant future.

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No. 673.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pest, December* 11, 1876, 10·30 P.M.

SPEAKING to the Russian Ambassador of General Ignatiew's proposal, I said that if the Porte accepted an European Commission, I should prefer, if I were a member of it, with view to my personal safety, the support of a Turkish force to one of 6,000 Europeans, and he answered, as a proof of the indirect influence of a small European force, that when European Commission in the Lebanon question went to Damascus, they give [*sic*] escort of Turkish troops to induce them to give up their intention of taking with them a division quartered at Beyrout.



To this I answered that 150,000 Russians on the Pruth and the English fleet at Besika Bay would probably have sufficient influence on the Porte to make it keep its engagements if it accepted in the Conference an European Commission, and undertook to escort it by a sufficient Turkish force to impose unpopular measures on population.

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No. 674.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

COLONEL LENNOX reports that a telegram has been received from Constantinople by a colleague that he and his colleagues are to arrange the armistice boundary between Turkey and Bosnia, in which case he would require new powers.

I should be glad to hear from your Excellency what is meant by this announcement.

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No. 675.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Corbett.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1876, 6 P.M.

THERE is no truth in the report alluded to in your telegram of the 10th.

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No. 676.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1876, 6 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 10th instant, I will inquire of Lord Salisbury whether his telegram is to be held as strictly confidential or should be communicated in any degree to other Governments.

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No. 677.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December* 12, 1876.

A REPORT from Colonel Lennox, forwarded to your Lordship from Vienna yesterday, states that Austria will support wish of the Prince of Montenegro for a port. Count Andrassy, however, has always held different language to me, and said yesterday he hoped he had convinced Lord Salisbury of the inexpediency of giving His Highness a port, which would open a coast to Russia, and become a nest of smugglers and lawless adventurers. The free navigation of the river, he thinks, ought to be granted to the Prince.

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No. 678.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.* —(Received December 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December* 12, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

WITH reference to the proposed employment of a Swiss [*sic*] and Belgian corps, under the orders of the Commission of Execution, until the formation of a local militia, Italian Government think it would be more practical and expeditious to take 6,000 Roumanian troops (which may be looked upon as forming a Christian branch of the Turkish army) for this service, and have so instructed their Minister at Constantinople; but have told him also not to oppose any proposal which may be likely to secure adoption in the Conference.

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* Repeated to Lord Salisbury.

No. 679.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 13, 2·3 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 13, 1876, 12·15 P.M.*

IT was agreed by the Representatives that Montenegrin Commission should make arrangements about armistice with the insurgents in Bosnia, and the Commission was instructed to proceed to complete them.

I cannot think that Colonel Lennox requires new powers.

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No. 680.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 13, 2·12 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 13, 1876, noon.*

COLONEL HOME has completed the survey of positions, and hopes to have his plans ready by next messenger.

He is extremely satisfied with the line, which he says could be held against any force by fifty-five thousand men.

The works absolutely necessary could be completed in six weeks.

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No. 681.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 13, 1876, 5·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Lord Salisbury:—

"Saving special exigency, I think that my reports of the progress of the negotiations here should only be communicated to the Cabinet and not to other Governments."

You should not, therefore, communicate with Italian Government as to employment of Italian troops, as suggested in your telegram of the 10th instant.

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No. 682.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.* —(Received December 13, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 13, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson:—

"The demarcation Commission has signed the final Protocol and dispersed. Colonel Lennox has gone to Trieste by last night's steamer."

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No. 683.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 13, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, December 13, 1876.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW'S proposals have met with approval at Berlin, and the German Government are prepared to support any arrangement on which England and Russia can agree.

Great reliance is placed in Lord Salisbury's judgment.

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* Repeated to Constantinople.



No. 684.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 13, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Pest, December 13, 1876.*

THE copy of a telegram from the Emperor of Russia to the Duchess of Edinburgh (has been?) received here, expressing His Majesty's satisfaction with the applause which a reference to his policy in the Eastern question met with at the recent meeting in London, while alleged views of Prime Minister were condemned; and states that His Majesty is hopeful that General Ignatiew will be able to come to an agreement with Lord Salisbury.

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No. 685.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, December 14, 1876.*

TURKISH Commander-in-chief has just informed me that the Montenegrin Commanders have refused to abide by the demarcation of the Commission, and that they are doing all in their power to bring about a conflict by sending their men close under the walls of Spuz and Podgoritza.

I have urged his Excellency to give the strictest orders that forces at the frontier are, notwithstanding infraction of (?) territory, to avoid all conflicts, and he has promised that not a shot shall be fired against attack.

His Excellency is of opinion that Montenegrins wish to break off the armistice, in order to avoid revictualling of Nichsich.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

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No. 686.

*Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 15, 1876.*

M. COUMOUNDOUROS, who has reconstructed his Ministry with all his former colleagues, except M. Zaimis' two friends, called upon me to-day to warn me that if war breaks out between Russia and Turkey he would not be able to restrain Hellenic populations of European Turkey and Crete from rising, unless he is authorized to assure them that England will take their interests under her protection and secure for them the same privileges as for the Slavs.

I have told him that (this?) looks like an intended change of policy, although he declared it was not, and promised to do his utmost to prevent a rising. The King, to whom I communicated the above privately, has sent me word that the Prime Minister must have expressed himself too strongly, and that he is convinced that no change is intended, and will not permit any.

I have sent copy of this telegram to Constantinople.

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No. 687.

*Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 17, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, December 17, 1876.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has called to-day and given me positive assurances that no change of policy is intended.

He says that he has reason to suspect that General Ignatiew will endeavour to persuade the Conference to extend Bulgaria so as to include Hellenic districts, and even as far as Salonica, and that Hellenic Government will be most grateful if the British Plenipotentiaries will oppose such pretensions, and insist upon the Greeks being placed upon a footing of perfect equality with the Slavs, and admitted to the same privileges.

A copy of this is sent to Sir H. Elliot.

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No. 688.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 17, night.)*

*Constantinople, December 17, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.) COLONEL HOME wishes following to be communicated to Sir Linton Simmons:—

"Captain Ardagh is now detached for employment under Lord Salisbury. I must have three more officers as soon as possible."

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No. 689.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 18, 5 P.M.)*

*Constantinople, December 18, 1876, 2·30 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.) COLONEL HOME wishes following to be sent to Sir Linton Simmons:—

"Find out, from the engineer of Roumanian Railway, quantity and nature of rolling stock on all the Roumanian railways where it is kept. Telegraph information as soon as possible; give description of Scuilani Bridge.

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No. 690.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19.)*

*Vienna, December 18, 1876, 11·20 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.) WITH reference to detention of an Austrian steamer at Belgrade, I am told by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he has decided not to require Servian Government to salute the Austrian flag, and he will be satisfied with punishment of Servian police officer and its announcement in the official newspapers; he will also publish a despatch communicated to the Servian Government stating that as several occurrences of the kind have taken place, a repetition of them will oblige the Government to take measures to cause its flag to be respected.

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No. 691.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19.)*

*Vienna, December 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.) COUNT ANDRASSY, whom I have seen this evening, says that he accepts the resolutions of Plenipotentiaries at Constantinople as unobjectionable in principle, though he thinks that some of them may not prove practical.

In stating this he made the reservation that one of the Austrian Ambassador's telegrams had not yet been received. He will authorize him to sign Protocol as soon as he learns from Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government have authorized Lord Salisbury to do so.

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No. 692.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19.)*

*St. Petersburgh, December 18, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.) A POLITICAL demonstration took place before the Kazan Church to-day. A crowd of men and women unfurled red banners with inscriptions of liberty.

Some fifty persons were arrested. No disorder occurred.

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No. 693.

*Consul Richetts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19, 3 P.M.)*

*Tiflis, December 19, 1876, 9·40 A.M.*

(Telegraphic.) IT is intended to place 30,000 men between Ozurget and Sukhum Kalé, and 80,000 on [?] frontier; total all arms at present in Caucasus about 80,000. Despatch No. 12 sent.

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No. 694.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19.)*

*Constantinople, December 19, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.) MIDHAT PASHA has replaced Mehemet Rushdi Pasha as Grand Vizier. The latter is named President of the Council of State.

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No. 695.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19, 6·15 P.M.)*

*Constantinople, December 19, 1876, 3 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.) COLONEL HOME wishes following communicated to Sir Linton Simmons:—

"Russia had 200 waggons with telescope axles at the beginning of the year. This is authentic.

"Polish carriages will run on Roumanian lines, but must pass through Galicia."

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No. 696.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

*Foreign Office, December 19, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.) WHAT is the meaning of Count Andrassy's statement that he would authorize Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to sign Protocol as soon as he learns that Lord Salisbury is authorized to do so? Among the provisional propositions recorded in the telegram repeated to you on the 9th instant was a stipulation that Porte should engage for all reforms in a Protocol, and this will undoubtedly be essential, and is in accordance with the English basis; but no such Protocol can be signed till after the assent of Porte to reforms finally decided upon.

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No. 697.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 19, at night.)*

*Constantinople, December 19, 1876.*

(Telegraphic.) APPOINTMENT of Midhat Pasha at this moment is a very important event. He is beyond question the most energetic and liberal of Turkish Statesmen, and a man of action, though sometimes too hasty in forming his decisions. He has always advocated equality between Christians and Mussulmans, and wishes to put a control upon the power hitherto wielded by the Grand Vizier as well as the Sultan.

He is opposed to centralization, and in favour of giving the provincial populations much direction of their own affairs. He has, however, spoken strongly to me against the grant of special institutions to the Slav provinces, but he is a man who listens to argument, and may, perhaps, be brought to see necessity of it under present circumstances.

He is hated by General Ignatiew, who often spoke of him as a brigand, filibuster, and madman, and as the dislike is reciprocal it may influence his conduct. He is the hope of all the reforming Mahommedans and Christians, but disliked by the old Mussulmans. He always wished to follow English advice, but I do not know what his feelings towards us are at present.

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No. 698.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 20.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 20, 1876.*

COUNT ANDRASSY referred to the Protocol or the Minutes of the proceedings and resolutions of the Plenipotentiaries at the preliminary Conference; he doubted the expediency of the Plenipotentiaries signing such a document, but telegraphed to Count Beust on the 17th instant that he would authorize its signature by Count Zichy if Lord Salisbury was authorized to sign it. As his Excellency returned here yesterday I have done so likewise.

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No. 699.

*Mr. Cumberbatch to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 20.)*

(Telegraphic.) *December 20, 1876.*

M. RISTITCH resigned last night. It is not certain whether M. Cristitch or M. Marinovitch (will succeed him ?).

Yesterday evening Austrian monitor steaming past Belgrade fortress was fired upon by a sentry; monitor fired back shell, then anchored opposite Belgrade on Save. It is reported that Austrian Consul-General was on board.

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No. 700.

*Mr. Cumberbatch to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 20, 5·40 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *December 20, 1876, 2 P.M.*

AS soon as intelligence of affair at the fortress reached Prince Milan, His Highness sent officer to apologize to the Austrian Consul-General. Commandant of the fortress dismissed.

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No. 701.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 21, 1876, 9·40 P.M.*

A NEW cause of complaint against Servia from the fort at Belgrade having fired on an Austrian monitor has been arranged.

The apology offered has been accepted, on condition that the suspension which was ordered of the Commandant shall be confirmed, that the men who fired the shots and have been arrested shall be punished, and Austrian flag shall receive a royal salute.

The resignation of Servian Ministry offered to facilitate an arrangement has been accepted by the Prince.

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No. 702.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 21, 1876, 10 P.M.*

THERE appears from your telegram of to-day to be a misunderstanding as to name of Minute kept by the French Secretary of proceedings of Conference. Count Andrassy called it a Protocol, and I was told to-day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that, as Count Beust has been unable to state whether Lord Salisbury has been authorized to sign document in question, whatever it may be called, Count Zichy has been instructed to be guided by his Lordship's opinion with respect to its signature.

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No. 703.

*Mr. Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 22, 1·6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, December 22, 1876, 11·10 A.M.*

TWENTIETH of last month 2,000 reserve (s.?) arrived; remainder, 18,000, will be here by end of month; Russian army of frontier will be then, all arms, 100,000. All passes to (Dardanelles?) should be fortified by Turks.

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No. 704.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, December 23, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

MR. STUART reported from Athens on the 4th instant that the Russian squadron was going to the Baltic with orders to put into a German port if all the Russian ports are closed by ice.

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No. 705.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 23, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December 23, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

THE Constitution has been read and proclaimed. It establishes a Chamber of Deputies and a Senate. Ministers are declared responsible, and the press free. All subjects of the Sultan, without distinction of creed or race, to be styled Ottomans, a designation hitherto taken by the Mussulmans alone, and all Ottomans are declared equal before the law, and to have the same rights and duties, but their admission to public employment is dependent on their knowledge of Turkish, the official language of the State. Personal liberty and domicile are declared inviolable, and torture in every shape is absolutely prohibited. The number of Deputies is fixed at one for every 50,000 male population; the election being by ballot, according to a law to be prepared. Judges to be immovable and the Courts open. No tax to be levied except in virtue of a law, the Assembly voting each Article of the Budget; and no expenditure to be made beyond the Budget, which is voted for one year, and a "Cour des Comptes" will examine the annual expenditure. The Provinces to be administered on the basis of decentralisation, and a law will regulate on a large basis the elections for the Councils of the Provinces, Districts, and Cantons. Municipal affairs to be conducted by elective Municipal Councils.

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No. 706.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 26, 1876.*

I AM assured that the Porte has nearly completed a purchase through agents in (Germany?) of 26 batteries of Krupp field-guns, with 900 rounds of ammunition for the same.

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No. 707.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 27, 4 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Constantinople, December 27, 1876, 1·50 P.M.*

MR. BARING informs me that Achmet Aga has been condemned to death by a majority of five to one.

The President of the Commission defers reporting the condemnation to the Porte till after the festival of the Bairam, which lasts to the end of the week; and being most

anxious that it should not be made known till he has done so, Mr. Baring promised only to inform me in the strictest confidence.

Mr. Baring suspects President of other motives besides Bairam for not communicating the sentence officially to the Porte: of a wish for the acquittal of some of the other prisoners.

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No. 708.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Berlin, December 27, 1876, 4·37 P.M.*

COUNT MUNSTER having reported that your Lordship told him Her Majesty's Government could not exercise any special pressure on the Porte and compel the acceptance of the proposals of the Conference (the Emperor?) desires me to tell your Lordship confidentially that he fears that if the pressure is not equally exercised by the six Powers, Porte may feel encouraged to resist, and war with Russia will ensue, which His Majesty would deeply regret.

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No. 709.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, December 27, 1876.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has been summoned to Vienna by the Emperor, and it is believed here that he will return on Saturday with a message to the German Emperor on the affairs of Turkey.

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No. 710.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 27, 1876.*

REPORT prevalent here that Russian Mediterranean squadron, composed of four vessels, will return to the Baltic or a German port.

The fifth vessel will go or has already sailed for America, to bring, it is said, arms and ammunition.

Russian ports closed by ice.

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No. 711.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 27, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 27, 1876, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to a telegram received to-day from Lord Odo Russell, stating that his Austrian colleague had been called to Vienna, I am (informed?) that the Emperor, who had gone to Pesth, returned to Vienna, to be present to-morrow at a Ministerial Council; but it may have reference to the questions pending with Hungary.

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No. 712.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 28, 1876, 9·30 A.M.*

GENERAL RODICH is on his way to Vienna, and rumours are in circulation of a considerable force having been preparing during the last fortnight or three weeks for active service.

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No. 713.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 28, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

COUNT MUNSTER does not seem to have correctly understood and explained the attitude of Her Majesty's Government as to the acceptance or refusal by the Porte of the proposals of the Representatives of the Six Powers. You will receive by the messenger who left yesterday evening copies of my despatches to Lord Lyons and Lord A. Loftus of the 21st, recording my conversations with the Marquis d'Harcourt and Count Schouvaloff. They state in the most precise terms that while England will not use coercion to extort consent, she will not hold out to the Porte any hope of assistance or protection in the event of war on her refusal to entertain proposals. Her Majesty's Government have, therefore, not encouraged Porte to resist, but quite the reverse.

You may communicate to Emperor or Prince Bismarck substance of my language to French and Russian Ambassadors.

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No. 714.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 28, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 28, 1876, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE seen Prince Gortchakow to-day. His reports from Constantinople are not favourable.

Both the Sultan and Midhat Pasha hesitate as to acceptance of the Conference proposals, apparently from fear of Turkish fanaticism.

All Powers are agreed in case of refusal to recall their Ambassadors, leaving Chargés d'Affaires for merely current affairs.

Prince Gortchakow is anxious that Powers should inform the Porte that an attack against Servia or Montenegro would be regarded as an attack against Europe.

Russia will maintain for the present expectant attitude, and will not cross her frontier unless circumstances should oblige her to do so.

It is important to prevent, if possible, renewal of hostilities against Servia and Montenegro either by the conclusion of peace or an extension of the armistice, as it would inevitably lead to immediate war, which it is evidently the object, as well as the interest, of Russia to avoid.

Language of Prince Gortchakow calm and moderate, and I think he is disposed to agree to any reasonable arrangements to avoid war.

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No. 715.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 29, 10 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, December 28, 1876, 11·15 A.M.*

I HAVE been unable to call on Midhat Pasha since he became Grand Vizier till yesterday, when our long intimacy made him speak with great freedom.

He said that the proposals of the Plenipotentiaries were based upon the principle of decentralisation, the adoption of which he had succeeded in obtaining; but they carried it further than the Porte could admit, for the Governor-Generals selected by the Powers would be made almost independent of their own Government.

The Russian dream of establishing small autonomic States would be realized, and confinement of troops to the fortresses and principal towns was a repetition of the steps which led to quasi-independence of Servia.

The assignment of the third part of the revenue of the Provinces to Imperial purposes was a principle to which the Porte could not agree, and the decision had been come to by those who could not be possibly in possession of information required for correct appreciation of the question.

There was, however, in the proposals much that was most important and practical, to which he could have no hesitation in adhering.

On the other hand, there was no Turk who would consent to guarantees required.

War might be the ruin of the Empire, but all were unanimous in preferring honour-

able ruin to a dishonourable acceptance of arrangements which they considered equally fatal.

Turkish Minister at Brussels reported that the Belgian Government would not send troops except upon the invitation of the Porte, which would never be given at the dictation of foreign Powers.

At the same time he was ready and willing to engage foreigners, both officers and men, to organise an efficient police force; but this must be done by the Porte and on its own initiative.

To a Commission of Control as proposed he would never consent, but he was ready to give another effectual guarantee for the execution of the reforms.

Let a year be granted in order to put them into operation, and at the end of that time let Ambassadors report whether they had been fairly carried out or not.

If they report in the negative he will submit to the appointment of an International Commission, or such other control as is thought desirable.

His Highness perfectly understands that he has no assistance to expect from Great Britain, but he trusts that Her Majesty's Government will give no support to Russia in an attempt to carry out by force her long-cherished designs against the Turkish Empire.

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No. 716.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Berlin, December 29, 1876.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador's journey to Vienna is thought to be connected with a secret inquiry from Count Andrassy as to whether Austria could reckon on German support in the event of a quarrel with Russia about Turkey.

I cannot vouch for the truth of this report.

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No. 717.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, December 30, 1876.*

I HAVE ascertained from a confidential source that Count Andrassy expressed at the Council of the 28th instant a hope that war between Russia and Turkey would be avoided; and that it was therefore decided that no steps should be taken for the present with a view to the occupation of Turkish territory. His Excellency has since confirmed this information, assuring me that the report of the expediency of a loan having been considered at the Council is untrue; and by declaring that not a man will be added to the army, nor a shilling expended to prepare for intervention or war till circumstances arise clearly affecting the interests of the Empire.

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No. 718.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, December 30, 1876.*

AS your Lordship's telegram of yesterday appeared to be an answer to Count Andrassy's questions respecting the signature of such a Protocol as it alludes to, I have acquainted his Excellency with its substance, with which he has expressed much satisfaction, as he entirely concurs with the view which Her Majesty's Government take of the subject.

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No. 719.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, December 30, 1876, 5 P.M.*

INTELLIGENCE of the prolongation of the armistice to 1st of March at the initiative of the Porte received this morning from General Ignatiew has given much satisfaction here.

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No. 720.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 1, 1877, 4:30 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW has proposed signature by Plenipotentiaries of an act of which the following is operative clause:—

Plenipotentiaries declare that propositions laid before the Porte have been deliberated in common, and that they contained the essential basis of the arrangements to be concluded with the Porte. They all engage, consequently, to sustain them in Conference and to support them "auprès de la Porte." To give an evident proof of the union of their Governments which should contribute powerfully to the maintenance of peace, the Plenipotentiaries have signed this act.

Lord Salisbury asks to be authorized to sign, provided the Austrian Representative does so. I have great doubts. Ascertain what action of Austro-Hungarian Government will be.

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No. 721.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 2).*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 2, 1877.*

AS the act referred to in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday declares what has been already notified to the Porte, Count Andrassy does not clearly understand its object. He has received no report respecting it from Count Zichy, and until he does so he cannot express a positive opinion as to expediency of signing the proposed instrument. He thinks, however, it might be signed without danger or inconvenience if, after the word "peace" a clause were added stating "it is, however, understood that it shall be open to the Porte to propose modifications in the details and as to the manner of carrying out the views of the Powers." Without a clause of this kind to show that the proposals made to the Porte shall be subject to discussion, he said that the Conference would be a useless formality. When he hears from Count Zichy he will instruct him to communicate with Lord Salisbury in order that they may arrange such common action on the subject as their respective instructions may point out.

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No. 722.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January 2, 1877.*

THE suggestion said to have originated in a conversation between Count Chaudordy and General Ignatiew that the Conference should assemble elsewhere in the event of the Turkish Government definitively declining discussion of programme by Conference and adhering to their own finds favour here.

It is thought that if the Representatives of the Powers are withdrawn and Turkey is lest tête-à-tête with Russia, two dangers are to be apprehended:—

1. The Porte, unfettered any longer by diplomatic control, may appeal to religious feelings of its subjects, and the result may be an ebullition of fanaticism in different parts of the country hitherto undisturbed, but where the position of the Christians is precarious.

2. If Russia does not feel herself sufficiently strong to undertake the campaign alone she may possibly propose territorial advantages to Austria in order to receive her co-operation, thus entailing a participation of European Turkey by those two Powers with the sanction of Germany.

Should the suggestion above referred to be followed and an Italian town be selected as the new place of meeting, the Italian Government would be flattered at the choice.

I telegraph this at request of Count Tornielli, though instructions in above sense have been sent to General Menabrea.

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No. 723.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received January 3, 4·10 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 3, 1877, 1·10 P.M.*

MIDHAT PASHA stated yesterday to Mr. Sanderson that the meeting of foreign Representatives at Constantinople was a fortunate event for Turkey, which had hitherto placed strict reliance on maintenance of Treaty of Paris, but now opened her eyes to fact that it no longer exists.

Left thus to deal with Russia single-handed, she must trust to fate or throw herself into the arms of that Power, as perhaps the safest course now left open to her.

He would, however, be the last man in the Empire to advocate latter alternative, as repulsive to his own feelings and to desire that his country should continue to follow its traditional policy of reliance on Western Powers.

He still hoped that there yet would be some change in public opinion in England and that people would awaken to the injustice of sacrificing the interests of a whole Empire to Parliamentary considerations.

His Highness concluded by stating that General Ignatiew had intimated that nothing could be easier than for Russia to come to an understanding with Turkey, but that it was not possible for him to state in writing terms on which this could be effected as long as he was obliged to act in concert with his colleagues at the Conference.

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No. 724.

*Acting Consul Cumberbatch to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 3, 6·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, January 3, 1877, 3 P.M.*

IN consequence of prolongation of armistice, great many Russian officers and men still in the Servian army have given in their resignation, and will leave in regular companies, it is reported, to Bessarabia.

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No. 725.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received January 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, January 3, 1877.*

GOVERNMENT of Roumania protest against Roumania being called a privileged province and Roumanians termed Ottoman subjects in the Turkish Constitution.

Unless answer be favourable, next tribute may be refused.

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No. 726.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 3, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 3, 1877.*

I AM informed by Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that, as Count Zichy has not answered a telegram asking for explanations respecting act which General Ignatiew wishes the Plenipotentiaries to sign, instructions have not yet been sent to him.

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* Repeated confidentially to Embassies. † Repeated to Constantinople.



No. 727.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 3, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 3, 1877.*

TURKISH Ambassador tells me that, on his communicating to-day to Count Andrassy a telegram stating that Porte would be unable to accept most of the important points submitted to it in the Conference, his Excellency urged expediency of the Porte accepting them as a basis for negotiation and stating the objections which it might have to their being ultimately adopted without some modification.

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No. 728.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—Received January 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 4, 1877, 10·45 A.M.*

IT is said that General Tchernayeff, who had arrived here with the intention of returning to Servia, received a telegram from Russia yesterday ordering him not to do so, and that he is, therefore, going to Nice.

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No. 729.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 4, 1877.*

A SIMILAR suggestion to that reported by Sir A. Paget as to Conference adjourning to Italy has been made here confidentially by the Italian Minister, but Count Andrassy seems to consider that it is not necessary as yet to come to any decision on the subject. Besides, it is believed that if General Ignatiew retires from Constantinople, no Russian (?) Diplomatic Representative will be left there.

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No. 730.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, January 5, 1877.*

THE Roumanian Agent informed me to-day that, after our conversation reported in my despatch No. 7, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, he received instructions to intimate to Count Andrassy that his Government would resent explanation given by the Porte of certain Articles of Turkish Constitution by withholding the tribute, and that he was also to ask my opinion on the subject.

I declined expressing one on the merits of the case, which might be more or less represented as that of Her Majesty's Government. It might be presumed, however, your Lordship would consider Porte had been indiscreet in adding another irritating question to those with which it had already to deal, and I promised to inform you that his Government are anxious to know whether you would not consider them justified in withholding the tribute, unless (?) they receive satisfaction.

He said also that, in answer to Austrian overture respecting neutrality, reported in my No. 7, he had been instructed to state to Count Andrassy that Roumania hoped to be permitted to remain neutral, and would count in that case upon Austrian eventual support for the maintenance of its territorial integrity and political position; but he believes under present circumstances, should war take place between Russia and Turkey, the country would be unanimous in making common cause with Russia.

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No. 731.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January 5, 1877.*

GERMAN Government do not think it desirable to continue the Conference in some Italian or other city after the Ambassadors have left Constantinople, nor will they sign the act proposed by General Ignatiew without having read it.

Armistice affords ample time for Turkey and Russia to reflect before rushing into war.



No. 732.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 6, 1877.*

COUNT ANDRASSY leaves to-day for Pesth, and the newspapers report that Austrian Ambassador at Berlin is on his way from Berlin to reside in Hungary.

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No. 733.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 6, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, January 6, 1877.*

I HAVE to-day sent following telegram to Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"(Confidential.)

"Ministerial crisis probable.

"Can your Excellency induce the Porte to delay sending an immediate answer to Roumanian protest, very important."

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No. 734.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 8.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January 8, 1877.*

FOLLOWING sent to Lord Salisbury at 2 this afternoon:—

"The language of German Ambassador does not imply any change of policy on the part of Prince Bismarck; but he wishes to be made acquainted with the proposed demands, measures, or concessions before giving his sanction to them."

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No. 735.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 8, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

DO not understand what your telegram of to-day refers to.

It would be better for you not to telegraph direct to Lord Salisbury. Any telegram from you received here can be repeated to him.

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No. 736.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January 9, 1877.*

MY telegram of yesterday was in reply to one from Lord Salisbury, which I took it for granted had been repeated to your Lordship from Constantinople.

Lord Salisbury asked me whether the German Ambassador's refusal to consent to less stringent demands than those addressed to Turkey in the first instance indicated a change of policy on the part of Prince Bismarck.

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No. 737.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, January 9, 1877.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told me yesterday that if all the Powers assent to the renewal of the Eastern Conference in another capital—an Italian idea—Russia would do so likewise, but that he would not initiate proposal.

I am informed that the Russian Ambassador at Berlin has expressed opinion, probably received from Prince Bismarck, that renewal of Conference in a foreign capital would only be desirable if combined action should be resolved on.

In the event of rupture of Conference Russia, I consider, will take no immediate action, but will seek to cover herself by Europe. It is somewhat feared that Turkey may declare war against Russia.

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No. 738.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1877.

ITALIAN Ambassador tells me that his Government believe Austria meditates an immediate occupation of part of Bosnia in case Conference breaks up unsuccessfully. In that case Italian Government fear a general agitation in Italy for annexation of the Trentino.

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No. 739.

*Mr. Cumberbatch to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January* 10, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, January* 10, 1877, 2·22 P.M.

RUSSIAN General Nikitin, who arrived here three weeks ago, in consequence of a telegram received late last night, left Belgrade early this morning, it is said to St. Petersburgh, but contradictory rumour states to Bessarabia.

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No. 740.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received January* 11.)

(Telegraphic:) *Pera, January* 11, 1877, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram, repeated by you yesterday, I do not believe that in the event of the Conference breaking down there is the slightest chance of Turkey declaring war against Russia.

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No. 741.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January* 11, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 11, 1877, 11 A.M.

AT my audience of the Sultan yesterday, I strongly urged the necessity of an immediate acceptance of proposals submitted by Plenipotentiaries, and represented that the points to which exception had been taken by the Porte had been so much modified by the exertion of the Marquis of Salisbury that any true friend of Turkey would deplore their rejection and the consequences to which it must lead.

The conversation turned almost entirely upon the International Commission.

The Sultan said that if it were only a question of naming an English Commissioner, or even English and French Commissioners, he would not hesitate for a moment, as he knew our Governments to be animated by goodwill towards Turkey, but he could not feel the same as regards some of the other Governments.

He asked me how it was proposed to constitute the Commission, alluding, I imagine, to the part to be taken in it by a Turkish Commissioner.

I was not in a position to give this information, but I left the Sultan with a strong impression that no insuperable objection will be made by him to the appointment of a Commission for a limited period with an Ottoman member upon it.

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* Repeated to Constantinople, Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and copied to Paris.
† Repeated to St. Petersburgh.



No. 742.

*Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January* 11, 2·28 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *January* 11, 1877, 12 P.M.

CONSUL at Galatz reports, "Russian contractor is here negotiating for the supply of flour, biscuits, &c."

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No. 743.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1877, 4·10 P.M.

ODIAN EFFENDI has mentioned to me to-day a suggestion that the Constitution recently decreed for the Ottoman Empire, together with new provincial Administration to be drawn up, should be made a matter of international agreement between Turkey and the Powers, who would then have a right to watch over its execution. This plan, he said, Midhat Pasha would be ready to bring forward as a counter project to the scheme of reforms and guarantees proposed in Conference, which (especially the guarantees) the Porte felt they could not accept.

I declined to express an opinion on this proposal, stating that it would be inconvenient to discuss here matters which were in negotiation at Constantinople, and I again urged the expediency of the Porte submitting to conditions which they might consider disadvantageous rather than risk a war single-handed with Russia.

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No. 744.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January* 11, 1877, 4·45 P.M.

I DO not know how Italian Government can have received the information referred to in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, as the Italian Minister here says that Austria will not occupy Bosnia immediately, even if a Russian force enters Bulgaria.

Count Andrassy stated some time ago he would meet any movement in Italy to annex territory by rectifying the Austrian frontier at her expense.

I hope to see his Excellency to-morrow at Pesth.

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No. 745.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.†*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1877.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF positively assures me that there is an intimate understanding between Austria, Germany, and Russia. He speaks of it as a fact for which he can vouch. I hear, however, on good authority, that Count Andrassy has lately held language quite inconsistent with any such relations, and has boasted of "privately propping up" the Turks. I give these two statements as they reach me, but incline to think the latter the more credible of the two.

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No. 746.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1877.

LORD SALISBURY telegraphs—"German Ambassador informs me he has received renewed orders to decline formally that he will not suffer any abatement of the proposals."

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* Repeated to Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and copy to Paris.
† Sent also to Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 747.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 11, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 11, 1877.*

THREE Turkish ironclads left Bosphorus on the evening of the 9th instant for Batoum, having on board a quantity of torpedoes for defence of that harbour.

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No. 748.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received January 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, January 11, 1877, 3 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have reason to know that a perfect understanding exists at this moment between the three Emperors in regard to Eastern affairs which renders improbable any isolated action on the part of Austria, and would check any ambitious aspirations of Italy.

Russia makes use of Italy as a check on Austria, while Italy hopes for Russian support for her views of aggrandizement.

Should the Conference break up without result, it is not probable that the three Emperors will accept passively the affront offered to Europe by Turkey, and consequently a combined action may be proposed similar to former Russian proposal.

Isolated action on the part of either Russia or Austria is not likely.

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No. 749.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received January 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 11, 1877.*

THE Turkish Commander-in-chief informs me that the agitation among Mirdites alluded to in my despatch No. 92 of the 31st ultimo is being increased to a dangerous extent through Russian and Italian instrumentality. His Excellency has news of a projected landing of 500 Italians on the coast between Durazzo and Alessio, and has telegraphed to Constantinople for the naval force on this station to be increased.

He tells me that well-known Montenegrin Chief Marcntosechi has passed into Mirdite mountains.

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No. 750.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.‡—(Received January 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January 12, 1877.*

THE Italian Government have always thought, as frequently reported, that Russian invasion of Bulgaria would be followed by an Austrian occupation of Bosnia, but they have not fresh data on the subject. I am assured, and believe that there is not any feeling in the country generally on the Trentino question, though there may be among a certain number of individuals in the frontier provinces, but the strictest orders have been given to the Prefects to prevent any acts which might justify complaints by Austria.

The policy of the Italian Government is the maintenance of the existing geographical arrangement, and this is one of the reasons, as I am again informed, why they are in favour of the Conference not breaking up, but removing elsewhere if Turkey refuses terms proposed.

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* Repeated to Embassies.
† Sent to Constantinople.
‡ Repeated to Paris, Constantinople, St. Petersburgh, Vienna, and Berlin.



No. 751.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, January 12, 1877, 12·5 P.M.*

THE language of the German Ambassador at Constantinople does not imply a change of policy on the part of Germany, but the contrary.

German Emperor I am told thinks that the Conference will change policy of Powers, if the Powers do not put a limit to the spirit of concession which animates the Conference, and which the Emperor thinks encourages the resistance of the Porte.

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No. 752.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential) *Berlin, January 12, 1877.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF is perfectly right, there is an intimate understanding between Austria, Germany, and Russia.

Count Andrassy's policy, "privately propping up the Turks," is after all in the interest of Russia, and not in that of Turkey.

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No. 753.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 12, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, January 12, 1877, 5 P.M.*

ON my observing to-day that a report is in circulation that the rupture of negotiations at Constantinople will be followed by an Austrian occupation of a part of Bosnia, Count Andrassy said that it was impossible to say what the interests of Austria may eventually render expedient, but if ever she occupied Bosnia, it will not be in consequence of the breaking up of the Conference.

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No. 754.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 12, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Buda-Pesth, January 12, 1877, 6 P.M.*

I ACQUAINTED Count Andrassy this morning with the substance of the suggestion made to your Lordship yesterday by an Agent of the Porte, and your answer to it.

His Excellency expressed no opinion as to the expediency of its adoption, but if the Turkish Constitution could be carried out, which he does not believe, it would lead to the dissolution of the Empire.

He considers it, however, a master-stroke of Midhat Pasha, as Russian troops can no longer enter Bulgaria with proclamation of free institutions on the point of their bayonets. As the Porte, therefore, has given more than Russia would offer to Bulgaria, and Servia is crying for peace, there is no longer a decent pretext for war; and Emperor of Russia being earnestly desirous of peace, we may hope will be preserved by the Porte accepting the arrangement on the basis of the late proposals of the Conference as Turkey has already had a diplomatic victory in the moderation of the demands to which Russian pretensions have been reduced.

His Excellency fears, however, that no arrangement will be lasting, for, as the financial difficulties of the Porte will always cause discontent (adventurers?) will easily excite new insurrections.

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No. 755.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 12, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Pesth, January 12, 1877, 9·30 P.M.*

THE Emperor said to me to-day that nothing could be more satisfactory than the assurances which he receives of the Emperor Alexander's desire to maintain peace, but he finds it difficult to reconcile them with the expensive preparations of the Russian Government for war.

This language, together with that of Count Andrassy, which I report to-day, is inconsistent with understanding which, according to Count Schouvaloff, exists between the Powers.

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No. 756.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 13, 1877, 5·34 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency at your interview with the Sultan, as reported in your telegram of the 11th instant.

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No. 757.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 13, night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pesth, January 13, 1877, 5 P.M.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed surprise to-day that the Grand Vizier could think of giving the Powers a right to watch over the execution of the new Constitution, as Russia might thus find frequent opportunities of interfering in the affairs of the Empire, and raising questions dangerous to its stability.

He spoke hopefully of Monday's Conference, and said that an effort would be made meanwhile through a private source to influence decision of Sultan.

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No. 758.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 14, morning.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pesth, January 13, 1877, 10·20 P.M.*

BEFORE receiving Lord A. Loftus' telegram of yesterday I said to Count Andrassy that the Russians are alleged to pretend to have an understanding with Austria, and he answered that the report is like their sending him a telegram stating that England and all the other Powers had agreed to sign Protocol prepared by General Ignatiew, and that the assent of Austria alone was wanting.

I have since said to him that it is now rumoured that Russia, instead of invading Turkey if the Conference fails, will renew her proposals for a joint occupation of Northern Provinces by herself and Austria. To this His Excellency replied she had done this once and was not likely to do so again.

I can only report observations made by his Excellency in private conversations, and (? leave) your Lordship to form your own opinion of them.

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No. 759.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 14, morning.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Pesth, January 13, 1877, 11·15 P.M.*

SINCE my telegram of this afternoon Count Andrassy tells me that news just received from Constantinople is not satisfactory, as he finds the original proposals to the



Porte have been less modified than he understood them to be, and that so much has been left that there is little probability of their being accepted.

I had some hesitation in referring to alleged declaration of the German Representative in the Conference, but whatever it may have been his Excellency said it had surprized him.

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No. 760.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received January 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January 14, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has also received information of certain agitation among Mirdites, but (repudiates?) the idea that Italy has anything to do with it. His Excellency had not heard of projected landing of Italians, but will nevertheless have orders sent to prevent any embarkation from coast of Italy. He suggests that as Mirdites are Catholics, priests may perhaps be implicated.

With reference to part of Lord A. Loftus's telegram of 12th instant, I do not believe Italian Government entertain any views of territorial aggrandizement.

Minister for Foreign Affairs is evidently much annoyed and surprised at General Menabrea's communication to your Lordship, and does not know on what information it was founded.

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No. 761.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received January 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January 15, 1877.*

I HAVE read your Lordship's No. 13 to Minister for Foreign Affairs. He admits General Menebrea's arguments as a secondary reason for Italian objection to Austrian annexation of Bosnia, but the principal one is that it would materially affect balance of power in the Adriatic, and would consequently be diplomatically opposed by Italy to the utmost. His Excellency does not anticipate any movement in Italy about the Trentino which the Government could not properly control, and they would certainly not raise any claim to such territory on account of Austrian aggrandizement.

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No. 762.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 15, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 15, 1877, 1·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, dated yesterday:—Russian Consul has just received by telegram instructions to hold himself in readiness to leave the instant orders are sent, Conference being unsuccessful.

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No. 763.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 16, 1877.*

I FORWARDED yesterday a report of General Tchernaieff's expulsion from Bohemia.

The Russian Ambassador having been instructed to ask an explanation of his arrest, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he was only ordered to leave because his proceedings were causing disturbances, and on his refusal, was forced to do so.

Many persons have been arrested, but as he has been followed by others to (Dresden)? who will treat him as a martyr, the expediency of interfering with him may be doubtful.

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* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.
† Repeated to Constantinople. Copies to Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Vienna.

No. 764.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 16.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Vienna, January 16, 1877.*

THE object of the Russian Ambassador's visit to Pesth has been to urge Count Andrassy not to be influenced by Midhat Pasha, who, he said, is endeavouring to cause disunion among the members of the Conference by holding different language to each, and who had offered to accept Russia's wishes for the extension of Montenegrin territory to the sea, if General Ignatiew would support him in other questions.

Count Andrassy answered that he was as anxious as the Russian Government for a successful issue of the Conference, but he could not sit at General Ignatiew's feet like Count Zichy.

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No. 765.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 16, night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, January 16, 1877, 5·16 P.M.*

PRINCE BISMARCK desires me to assure your Lordship that there is no change whatever in his policy, and that he cannot understand what can have led to this erroneous supposition.

He objects to signing the final Protocol proposed by Russia, and hopes Her Majesty's Government will equally reject it.

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No. 766.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 17, 1877, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, inform Prince Bismarck that the British Plenipotentiaries are not authorised to sign any Protocol.

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No. 767.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 18, 6.26 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 18, 1877, 4·5 P.M.*

A LARGE General Council, to which the proposals of Powers were submitted, has unanimously rejected them. Details later.

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No. 768.

*The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 19, 1877, 1·10 P.M.*

FURTHER accounts have been received in England of outrages perpetrated on Jews in neighbourhood of Jassy. Inquire into this matter, and take such measures as you properly can for protection of the Jews. Send Mr. St. John the necessary instructions immediately.

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No. 769.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 19, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 19, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

AT the Grand Council Grand Vizier made statement so moderate as to call forth marks of disapprobation.

He pointed out that the decision about to be taken might result in a war of which he vividly described the danger, pointing out that Russia might possibly not be the only Power to go against Turkey.

The Council was unanimous in deciding that appointment of International Commission and the control upon the nominations of Governors-General must be rejected at all risks, the Christian members being as resolute as the Mussulmans.

Grand Vizier said that, with the exception of those two points, there was nothing on which an understanding might not be come to, and he suggested that a guarantee for the execution of the reforms which should satisfy the Powers might be given by a formal communication to the Conference of the new Constitution, which was based upon the principles insisted on by it.

The acceptance of the Andrassy Note would be confirmed, including the formation of Commissions composed equally of Mussulmans and Christians for the Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, the Danube, and Adrianople.

If the Conference consented to continue negotiations upon this basis, he saw no reason to despair of a favourable result. Some objection was made to this as affording the Powers too much right of interference, but no decision was taken upon it, and I imagine the Government to be still free to follow the course adopted by Grand Vizier.

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No. 770.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 20, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 20, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*

AT the Conference to-day Safvet Pasha announced that, in conformity with unanimous decision of the Grand Council, Porte must reject the proposals respecting the nominations of the Governors-General and the International Commission.

Porte would, however, agree to Commission, as proposed in Count Andrassy's note, for Bosnia, Herzegovina, Adrianople, and Danube. If this was accepted by the Plenipotentiaries he was confident of an understanding being come to upon the reforms advocated by them, to many of which Porte had already assented.

He hoped, therefore, Conference would continue to discuss them.

The other Plenipotentiaries, considering the two rejected conditions indispensable, declared that there were no further grounds for continuing the Conference, which was then dissolved.

The Turkish Plenipotentiaries appeared to me anxious to place distinctly on record that the failure of the Conference was due to their unwillingness to agree, not to the reforms, but only to the guarantees required for them.

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No. 771.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 21, night.)*

(Very Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, January 21, 1877, 5 P.M.*

EMPEROR told French Ambassador this morning that he would not separate from the European concert, but he hoped that Europe would not allow a question which equally regarded the honour and interest of all, to degenerate into a Russo-Turkish question.

A Russian circular will be addressed to Europe in moderate but energetic language.

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No. 772.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, January 22, 1877, 4 P.M.*

I SAW Prince Gortchakow this morning. His Highness considers the refusal of the Porte as an insult to Europe. He declined to say what course he would take, but he holds to the European concert, and considers that Europe should defend her honour by coercive measures.

He expressed satisfaction that the Plenipotentiaries had all signed the declaration, and that identic instructions had been given to the Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

His Highness in mentioning a report which had reached General Ignatiew that Turkey would treat directly with Russia, stated emphatically that Russia would not treat independently of Europe.

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No. 773.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January 22, 1877.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has particularly requested me to telegraph as follows:—

"The Italian Government regret that the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers who had acted as mediators between Servia, Montenegro, and the Porte, should have separated without having made an effort, which would probably have been successful, to induce the Porte to convert armistice with those Principalities into an indefinite truce on the basis of the *statu quo ante bellum*."

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No. 774.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 23, 3·8 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 23, 1877, 2 P.M.*

LORD SALISBURY left this morning. The weather being very bad General Ignatiew has postponed his departure till to-morrow.

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No. 775.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 23, 1877.*

FROM what Musurus Pasha has said to me there seems a prospect of the Turkish Government making overtures to Servia and Montenegro for the conclusion of definitive peace. I have strongly urged this course. If such overtures should be made at Belgrade, Mr. White or Mr. St. John should press the Servian Government to show a conciliatory disposition and come to terms. Please instruct Mr. White accordingly if he is still at Constantinople, or if not, forward to him the substance of this telegram.

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No. 776.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 23, 1877, 6·45 P.M.*

THE Secretary of State for War requests that you will desire the officers of Royal Engineers under Colonel Home, who are not employed on the mission entrusted to them by Lord Salisbury, to return at once to England as travellers, each taking his own way.

It is suggested that, if practicable, two, including Captain Anstey, should return by Odessa, one proceeding by Jassy and the other by Woloczyska, and others by various routes across the Balkan by Burghaz, Varna, Pravadi, Schumla, Roustchouk, Silistria, Matchin, Isaktcha, and Toulcscha.

Colonel Lennox may retain one of these officers (not Captain Fraser) if he desires to do so.



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No. 777.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 23, 1877.*

FROM what Musurus Pasha has said to me there seems a prospect of the Turkish Government making overtures to Servia and Montenegro for the conclusion of a definitive peace. I have strongly urged this course.

If such overtures should be made to Prince of Montenegro, Mr. Monson should press him to show a conciliatory disposition and come to terms. Please instruct him accordingly.

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No. 778.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 24, 2 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 24, 1877, 10·50 A.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, who called yesterday to take leave of me, told me that he had just seen General Ignatiew who (?) advised the Porte to make direct peace with Servia.

Minister for Foreign Affairs answered that the Porte was quite ready, but that everything would depend on orders sent to the Prince from St. Petersburgh.

I said to him that General Ignatiew's advice was the best that could be followed, but that the Porte should be satisfied with the *status quo* without bringing forward their first terms. His Excellency acquiesced in this view.

General Ignatiew had also spoken of a peace which should be concluded with Montenegro, and Minister for Foreign Affairs said that Porte would be ready to make some territorial concessions to that Principality.

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No. 779.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 24, 1877.*

THE following is from Monson, dated to-day:—

"I was informed last night that Constant Pasha is expected in Montenegro, on a special mission. I will lose no time in going to Cettigné as soon as I hear that he is positively coming."

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No. 780.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received January 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 24, 1877.*

I HAVE instructed Monson as directed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

The Turkish Ambassador has been for some days at Pesth, probably conferring with Count Andrassy on the wish of the Porte to make peace with Servia and Montenegro, but Baron Orczy professes to be entirely ignorant on the subject. He expressed a personal opinion, however, that Servia would not make peace without the assent of Russia, which would probably be withheld.

Count Andrassy has postponed his return to Vienna till the end of the week.

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[a] Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 781.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received January 25, 5·52 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 25, 1877, 3·40 P.M.*

SIR HENRY ELLIOT left Constantinople to-day after having presented me as Chargé d'Affaires. I have taken charge of the archives and plate of Her Majesty's Embassy.

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No. 782.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received January 26, 5 P.M.*)

(Telegraphic.) *January 26, 1877, 4·35 P.M.*

SERVIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that Prince Milan has received a communication from Grand Vizier inviting him to treat directly with the Porte for peace.

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No. 783.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 27, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram which the Grand Vizier has addressed to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, proposing direct negotiations for peace.

I have expressed the great satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the step thus taken.

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No. 784.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*‡

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 27, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my previous telegram, the Turkish Ambassador informs me that Portew Effendi will be sent by the Porte to Belgrade ostensibly to arrange an exchange of prisoners, but in reality to negotiate terms of peace.

The Porte asks that the British Agent at Belgrade may receive confidential instructions to induce the Servian Government to receive these overtures favourably.

I have sent instructions in this sense, assuming that the basis of negotiation is substantially the *status quo*.

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No. 785.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received January 27.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 27, 1877.*

I HAVE informed Monson by telegraph that the Grand Vizier has addressed telegrams to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, proposing negotiations for peace.

The papers report that M. Wesselitsky has left Vienna for Ragusa.

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* Repeated to Embassies except Paris.

† A similar telegram was sent to Mr. St. John.

‡ A similar telegram was sent to Mr. St. John with last paragraph altered as follows:—"You will do what is in your power to secure this object, assuming that the basis of negotiation is substantially the *status quo*."



No. 786.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received January 27, night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 27, 1877*

MONSON informs me by telegraph that he intends going to Montenegro next Tuesday, together with Prince's Secretary and Prussian Colonel sent confidentially by Prince Bismarck.

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No. 787.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 27, 1876, 6 P.M.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram which the Grand Vizier has addressed to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, proposing direct negotiations for peace. I have expressed the great satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the steps thus taken.

Inform Mr. Monson, with reference to my previous instruction, as to the advice he should give in such an event.

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No. 788.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received January 27, at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 27, 1877, 6·45 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador quitted Constantinople this morning in Imperial yacht bound for the Piræus, owing to bad weather in the Black Sea. German, Austrian, and French Ambassadors also left to-day. Italian Minister will probably remain until Tuesday.

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No. 789.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received January 28.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 27, 1877.*

I HAVE sent Monson instructions in conformity with reference to your telegram of to-day; and with respect to one from him, asking whether you wish him to go to Montenegro or to write to Prince Nicolas, I have informed him your Lordship evidently intends him to visit Cettigné.

He states in the same telegram that he hears very much from his German colleague of Italian intrigues in Albania.

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No. 790.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received January 28.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 27, 1877.*

GRAND VIZIER informed me this afternoon that he had telegraphed to Princes of Servia and Montenegro in conciliatory language, which he trusted would prove effectual in bringing about negotiation for peace.

With Servia he would be ready to treat on the basis of the *status quo ante*, and he anticipated no serious difficulty in coming to an understanding with Montenegro.

His Highness appeared especially anxious for success in the case of Servia, fearing apparently that were the army forced by circumstances to enter and overrun the Principalities at the expiration of the armistice popular feeling might insist on conditions of peace considered too onerous by the Powers.

Agents sent by the Porte into the two Principalities to negotiate for an exchange of prisoners were authorized to prepare the way for a peaceable solution.

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No. 791.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 28, 1877.*

UPON my speaking to Grand Vizier to-day upon importance of commencing execution of the promised reforms in insurgent Provinces without delay, His Highness declared that this would be done within a week or ten days, referring to division and organization of district cantons and to the appointment of Mudirs and Mayors, as suggested by the proposals of the Conference.

He has determined formation of a new vilayet extending over district of Novi-Bazar, Nisch, Prisrend, Uskup, and Kossova, the seat of Government being at Pristina, and the Governor-Designate being either Said Pasha, formerly in Cyprus, or else Kiamil Pasha, formerly in high position in Syria, both able and intelligent men, and conversant with French.

A second new vilayet will comprise the present district of Constantinople, Ismiddio, and the Dardanelles, while that of the Archipelago will be in future governed by Rhodes.

Bosnia will, as formerly, include the Herzegovina, and Constant Effendi, a Christian, will be appointed Mustechar or Sub-Governor to th Governor-General; and it is His Highness' intention to appoint Christian Sub-Governors generally in the other Provinces.

He could not, he said, at present find any Christian eligible for the post of Governor except ( ? ) Pasha, whom he was about to appoint in that capacity to the Archipelago.

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No. 792.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 28, 1877.*

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with the satisfaction expressed by Her Majesty's Government with the communication made by the Porte to Servia and Montenegro.

Count Andrassy appears to have made no observation when Turkish Ambassador here communicated to him the telegram of the Grand Vizier, and Baron Orczy explains this reserve by observing that the Powers cannot interfere in the matter.

I said that your Lordship had, however, considered it expedient to advise Prince of Montenegro to meet overtures made to him in a conciliatory spirit, and to come to terms with the Porte.

Prince Milan has telegraphed to Constantinople his readiness to negotiate; and the Grand Vizier has been requested to send his proposals to the Turkish Ambassador here, and to authorize his communicating respecting them with M. Zuhitz, the Servian Agent.

When Turkish Ambassador spoke with Count Andrassy on the subject some days ago, his Excellency said that before taking any further action in the question, he must see the Memorandum which Prince Gortchakow is said to be preparing.

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No. 793.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, January 28, 1877.*

PRINCE MILAN sent yesterday spontaneously a favourable reply to Grand Vizier, proposing that negotiations for peace should be carried on by the Turkish Ambassador and Servian Agent at Vienna.

Hope is expressed that Her Majesty's Government will use its influence at Constantinople in order that the conditions can be accepted by Servia.

Decision of Prince of Montenegro not known here yet, but a favourable reply is expected, both countries being anxious for peace.

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No. 794.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 27, 1877.*

I HAVE informed Monson by telegraph that the Grand Vizier has addressed telegrams to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro proposing negotiations for peace.

The papers report that M. Wessilitsky has left Vienna for Ragusa.

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No. 795.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 28, 1877*

MR. BARING reports that Metto Besetash, one of the leaders of the Batak massacre, has been condemned to death.

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No. 796.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 28, 1877.*

WHILST I was with the Grand Vizier yesterday, a telegram was brought in from the Porte's Agent at Cetigné, containing the reply of the Prince of Montenegro to the telegram of the Grand Vizier. It expressed His Highness's gratification at finding a disposition on the part of the Porte for peace, and alleged, as an excuse for not answering it himself, the absence of his private secretary from Cetigné.

The Agent adds that immediately upon receipt of the Grand Vizier's telegram, an active telegraphic correspondence took place between the Prince and St. Petersburgh, and that he considers His Highness's position as difficult, having to choose between peace and a continuance of the struggle in the hope of an approaching occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by Austria; that His Highness continues to be guided by the counsels of Russian Consul, and that large quantities of wheat and Indian corn are being brought into the Principalities, apparently furnished by Russian Government.

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No. 797.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 29, 1877, 5 P.M.*

ENQUIRE whether the Engineer officers under Colonel Home now are, and which of them are, coming home in consequence of telegram of the 23rd instant to Sir H. Elliot.

Inform me of answer.

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No. 798.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 29, 1877.*

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated the substance of Mr. Jocelyn's telegram of yesterday, and to whom I have spoken of the Prince of Servia's answer to the Grand Vizier, says that Count Andrassy has hitherto abstained from expressing an opinion on the subject, and that Russian Ambassador professes to know nothing of the feeling of his Government with respect to it.

Baron Orczy, however, does not believe that the Princes would negotiate without having been encouraged from St. Petersburgh.

He says that the possibility of Austria occupying the Herzegovina could not induce Prince of Montenegro to continue war, as he must know that in that case he could gain

nothing by doing so, but that it is not to be expected that he will make peace without obtaining the concessions recommended by the Conference.

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No. 798*.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 29, 1877.*

TURKISH Ambassador communicated to-day to the Servian Agent a telegram instructing him to state that the Porte having no intention of profiting by success of its arms, is ready to make peace on the basis of the *status quo ante*, but that he was to add it would be the duty of the Turkish Government to obtain guarantees for the future which could only be defined during the progress of the negotiations, in order to begin which it is important that a Servian delegate should be sent immediately to Constantinople.

The Servian Agent observed that asking for guarantees is inconsistent with offer of peace on the *status quo ante*. The Ambassador, however, does not believe that the Porte will allow this to become an obstacle to the restoration of peace.

He has not yet communicated the telegram to the Count Andrassy, as his Excellency, who is probably communicating with Berlin and St. Petersburgh on the subject, on his request for an audience, excused himself from seeing him till to-morrow.

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No. 799.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 29, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, January 29, 1877.*

ASSISTANT Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that Imperial Government has signified to Princes of Montenegro and Servia that in reply to overtures of the Porte they must act in accordance with their own individual interests, and that Russia can neither advise nor aid them. Russian circular will be sent in three or four days. It will explain past and consult, as regards present and future, with a view to maintain European concert. Austrian Cabinet, I am told, is very reserved.

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No. 800.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 30.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, January 29, 1877.*

I SHALL start to-morrow morning, and hope to arrive at Cetigné on Wednesday afternoon.

I would respectfully suggest (as my Italian colleague is doing to his Government) that I should be furnished by telegraph with the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the rectification of the frontier and especially as to sea-port, upon which Prince Nicolas is certain to question me.

There is much activity among insurgent chiefs, and all that I hear makes me very doubtful of the success of the negotiations with Montenegro.

In my opinion it depends exclusively upon the attitude of Russia, whose Agent is still absent at St. Petersburgh.

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No. 801.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 30, 3·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 30, 1877, 1·45 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER appears satisfied with reply from Prince Milan regarding peace overtures, and he has agreed to His Highness's proposal that the conditions should be communicated to Servian Agent at Vienna by the Porte's Ambassador.

Although *status quo ante* is the basis proposed, Ambassador is directed to intimate



that the Porte will respect certain guarantees against future agression to be discussed later with the Servian Plenipotentiary at Constantinople.

They appear to consist principally of an engagement by Servia to abstain from erection of fortifications and from permitting the settlement of disaffected Bulgarians in her territory.

Question of these guarantees rested entirely with the Porte, and need not be urged at present, meaning, I presume, that if negotiations required it, they might be modified or abandoned.

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No. 802.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 30, 1877, 4·10 P.M.*

FORWARD following to Mr. Monson:—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government cannot undertake to lay down or recommend terms which either the Porte or Montenegro should accept; but they are sincerely anxious that a fair and lasting arrangement should now be made. They are convinced that Montenegro is never likely to obtain better terms than at the present moment, and that a renewal of the war would be very injurious to her interests."

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No. 803.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 30, 6·4 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 30, 1877, 3·3 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroom, dated this morning:—

"Panic in Bitlis district; several murders; many villages devastated and others deserted by inhabitants from dread of companies who threaten towns. Inhabitants, Mussulmans and Christians, watch armed in their barricaded houses."

I shall communicate this to the Porte.

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No. 804.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, January 30, 1877.*

PRINCE MILAN has received intelligence from the Grand Vizier expressing satisfaction at his overture being favourably received, and, assuming that the basis negotiated will be substantially the *status quo*, adds that a guarantee will be required.

Servian Government requests your Lordship's good offices that the question of guarantee may be dropped, as its nature is not known.

Reply to Grand Vizier is deferred pending your Lordship's answer.

My Italian colleague has been informed by his Government that the guarantee consists in a pacific attitude being maintained in the event of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, to which Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me there would be no objection.

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No. 805.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 31, 12·1 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, January 31, 1877, 11·40 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, Servian Government have applied to France and Italy for good offices.

The question of guarantee is inadmissible.

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No. 806.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

WHAT are the guarantees which the Porte is asking from Servia? It would surely be better to propose the *status quo* simply.

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No. 807.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. St. John.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 31, 1877, 6·35 P.M.

I AM not informed of the character of the guarantee supposed to be required by the Porte from Servia, and cannot express an opinion till I know it.

But I have already stated that basis of peace ought to be the *status quo*.

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No. 808.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January* 31, 1877.

AT the Turkish Ambassador's interview to-day with Count Andrassy, the latter expressed regret that the Porte had attached a question of guarantees to the proposals of Servia, and urged the expediency of its being abandoned. He represented, at the same time, that the Porte, making peace with Servia, would greatly facilitate her negotiations with Montenegro. I understand that the guarantees will probably be limited to an extension of the armistice, to prevent possibility of the negotiations being interrupted. I have endeavoured to impress on the Turkish Ambassador the importance to Turkey of peace re-established before the meeting of Parliament.

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No. 809.

*Consul-General Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January* 31, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 31, 1877.

TELEGRAPHED to Constantinople:—

The Miridites have assumed a hostile attitude by occupying the high roads passing through the district, and by making prisoner an Envoy sent to them by the Governor.

I am endeavouring to induce the authorities to adopt towards movement the conciliatory policy suggested in my despatch No. 90 of the 23rd ultimo.

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No. 810.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 1, 1877.

THE Servian Agent received to-day a telegram from M. Ristich declining to send Delegate to Constantinople until the Porte states distinctly, either through the Turkish Ambassador or by a direct communication to Belgrade, the nature of the guarantees which it wishes to include in the conditions of peace.

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No. 811.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby:—(Received February* 1, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 1, 1877, 12·15 P.M.

COLONEL HOME wishes following sent to Secretary of State for War:—

"I have returned this morning to Constantinople.

"Captain Ardagh leaves for London by way of Egypt, in accordance with Lord Salisbury's orders and your telegram.

"Captain Anstey leaves for London by way of Odessa on the first opportunity; harbour frozen at present; somewhat difficult. Two officers snowed up in Roumelia. Balkan passes impracticable just now.

"Shall send officers to Rhodes and Cyprus, and return with all the others as travellers, through the Balkan.

"Please persist in your approval. Assume my despatch 17 had reached you.

"Kars and Erzeroum cannot be visited now with any advantage."

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No. 812.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby:*—(Received February* 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 1, 1877.

GRAND VIZIER showed me to-day reply from the Prince of Montenegro, which is satisfactory in tone, and expresses His Highness' desire to ascertain the Porte's bases for peace negotiations.

The Grand Vizier has answered by requesting His Highness to determine them himself.

I was informed confidentially that the Porte was ready to treat upon the *status quo ante*, and to offer a rectification of the frontier on the Sutorina side, according to the proposal of General Ignatiew to the Conference.

Any permission, however, given to the Montenegrins to use the pasture lands on the southern frontier must not be construed into cession of territory.

His Highness mentioned Constant Pasha as likely to be appointed to conduct negotiations.

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No. 813.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 1, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 1, 1877.

THE only confirmation I have of Mr. Jocelyn's report mentioned in your telegram of yesterday, is an answer forwarded to him through me to an inquiry addressed to Monday which states that the Slav Committees in Dalmatia are at this moment very actively at work and making mischief in every way.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs denies this, and says that though ill-disposed persons in the Herzegovina are endeavouring to induce refugees not to return, the better class of them are now disposed to do so if the Porte would extend the period of amnesty published last year which is about to expire.

Turkish Ambassador expresses himself satisfied with assurances he receives from Count Andrassy.

With reference to question of guarantees, I learn from Count Andrassy that he has told the Porte it can obtain no stronger guarantee than ruin from which Servia cannot recover for years, and instead, therefore, of raising a question by which national feeling might be excited against Turkey, it should leave the different parties in the Principalities to quarrel amongst themselves as to their responsibility for the disasters of the war.

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* Repeated to Embassies, except Paris.

No. 814.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February 2, 1877.*

TWO English officers arrived to-day from the head-quarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas. State that the Russian army is in excellent condition, and fit to march as soon as weather permits.

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No. 815.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 2, 1877.*

THE following telegram is from Mr. Monson:—

"The Prince received me this morning. I spoke to His Highness in the language of your Lordship's telegrams, and I urged upon him again the expediency of profiting by the present conjuncture.

"He said that he had telegraphed yesterday to the Porte that he would enter into direct negotiations, but that he was not sanguine as to the result. He had last night received a telegram from M. Ristich that the terms proposed to Servia were much too onerous, and he did not expect that the Porte would offer Montenegro what he could accept. He was in a condition to continue hostilities, thanks to Russian supplies and provisions; and he must frankly declare that the territorial alterations proposed by the Conference did not satisfy him, especially the omission of the seaport. He said, further, that his honour was engaged in the amelioration of the lot of the Christians in the Herzegovina. He, however, assured me that he would not lightly reject the proposals of the Porte, and that he would consult me upon them as soon as received; also that Russia had given him no official advice whatever.

"I think that he is rather puzzled at the attitude of Russia."

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No. 816.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received February 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 2, 1877.*

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have spoken to Servian Foreign Minister on my return here, pressing him to conclude peace with the Porte. I find, however, that though Prince Milan is disposed to do so on the basis of the *status quo ante*, as recommended by the Powers, the demand unexpectedly made for some guarantees may prove an insurmountable obstacle to the success of the negotiations if the Porte is not induced to forego these.

I apprehended some such danger in my last conversation with Sir H. Elliot.

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No. 817.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 3, 1877.*

I HAVE spoken to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the guarantees mentioned to Mr. Jocelyn by the Grand Vizier. He expressed a personal opinion that the stipulations, as to Bulgarian refugees and a resident Agent at Belgrade, might be possibly arranged consistently with the *status quo ante*, which would not be the case with the proposal as to the Turkish flag. It appears to me that such a flag on a Servian fortress would be as great an irritation of antagonism as presenting a red one to a bull.

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* Repeated to Constantinople.



No. 818.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 3, 1877, 5 40 P.M.*

GIVE the following message to Colonel Home from Secretary of State for War:—

"With reference to your telegram of the 1st instant no steps are to be taken for the examination of Rhodes, Cyprus, or Egypt, or other parts of the Turkish Empire.

"Further instructions will be sent."

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No. 819.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3, 6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 3, 1877, 3 P.M.*

HAVING seen Prince Milan I am confident that if the Porte will promptly signify its consent to restoration of peace with Servia on the *status quo ante* principle, admitting the regulation of the frontier on the Drina, there is every chance of the negotiations succeeding. All other stipulations will only produce unnecessary delay, and probably prove abortive.

I shall wait here a few days to enable me to hear from your Lordship.

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No. 820.

*Consul-General Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 3, 1877, 4·25 P.M.*

STATE of affairs in Miridicia is most grave.

A false sense of dignity keeps back the Turkish authorities from taking the first step to arrive at a satisfactory understanding with the Mirdites. Request your Lordship's permission to endeavour to induce Bibdoda to come to treat with authorities. If this is not effected at once no hope will be left of subduing the insurrection, nor Albanian (which has?) already commenced.

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No. 821.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 4, 1877, 4 P.M.*

TEXT of Circular of Prince Gortchakow despatched on Friday to Russian Ambassadors at five Courts is published in to-day's journal. Following is general *précis*. Porte's refusal to accede to wishes of Great Powers creates a new phase of Eastern crisis. Russian Government has always considered and still considers it a European question. Concert of Powers initiated by Russia having failed, a new basis for negotiation was initiated by England, and a complete understanding among six Powers was obtained at Constantinople, but the results met with decided refusal of Porte. This refusal affects dignity and peace of Europe. The Emperor, desirous of acting as far as possible in common with Europe, wishes before taking a decision, to ascertain views of the other Great Powers as to meeting this refusal of the Porte, and ensuring execution of their wishes.

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No. 822.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, February 4, 1877, 6 P.M.*

I AM told by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he has received a telegram from Constantinople reporting that a party, of which the Sultan's brother-in-law is the leader, are intriguing to overthrow Midhat Pasha. His Excellency expressed much concern on

the observation that if the Sultan is blind enough to dismiss a Minister who has just saved Turkey from a great danger and is striving to curb the evils which are ruining it, there is little hope for the Empire.

He seemed to think means should be adopted to thwart this Palace intrigue, but said that he did not see how to do it.

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No. 823.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Pera, February 4, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

POSITION of Midhat Pasha is apparently becoming insecure.

Khedive's nephew, Halim Pasha, anxious to obtain the abrogation of the Firman, which deprives him of the succession, has joined with the Sultan's brother-in-law, and some of the Palace functionaries in intrigues against his Highness.

The Sultan has lately shown decided disinclination to sanction concession required by Bulgaria.

Grand Vizier is, however, very determined, and does not as yet apprehend danger of dismissal.

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No. 824.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 5, 1877, 12·50 A.M.*

PORTE will communicate by a circular to its Representatives the guarantees demanded of Servia.

Grand Vizier stated that assurances with regard to joint flags on forts applied only to the four mentioned in the Firman, and not to all actually existing.

On my observing that this seems to imply the destruction of the rest—guarantees sure to be objected to—his Highness answered that the point need not be pressed but might be discussed in negotiation.

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No. 825.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, 10·30 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Rome, February 4, 1877, 11 P.M.*

THE impression produced here by the Russian Circular, of which substance has been received to-day, is that Russia has succeeded in securing the concurrence of Austria in designs against Turkey.

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No. 826.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, 5·6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 5, 1877, 2·55 P.M.*

MIDHAT PASHA has just been dismissed; will probably leave Constantinople to-day. Nothing certain as to successor.

Possibly Safvet with Edhem as Foreign Minister.

Further particulars later.

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No. 827.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 5, 1877, 6 P.M.*

EDHEM PASHA appointed Grand Vizier; rest of the Ministry not yet certain.

Late Grand Vizier exiled, one of the Sultan's fast (steamers?) having received orders to convey him to Brindisi.

Public tranquillity as yet undisturbed from confidence in the new Grand Vizier, but considerable irritation exists against persons around the Sultan.

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No. 828.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 5, 1877.*

IN accordance with instructions contained in your telegram received on the 24th January, Captain Ainsley has started for England by way of Sebastopol and Odessa.

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No. 829.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 5, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

ITALIAN Minister informs me that he has received a telegram this evening, from which his Government seem to entertain a favorable opinion of Prince Gortchakow's Circular.

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No. 830.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 5, 1877, 11·45 P.M.*

TURKISH Ambassador communicated to-day to the Servian Agent the moral guarantees for peace which the Porte expects from Servia, with an intimation that they may not all be insisted on; but the favourable impression produced by this intelligence has been painfully counteracted by a telegram received this evening reporting the dismissal of Midhat Pasha.

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No. 831.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, 2·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, February 6, 1877, 2·20 P.M.*

GENERAL WALKER learns to-day from Krupp's Berlin agent that Russian Government has given that firm large orders for heavy 26 centimetre guns, and has bought the 58-ton gun exhibited at Philadelphia.

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No. 832.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, 3·25 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 6, 1877, 3·12 P.M.*

THE impression at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day is that the change in the Government at Constantinople has been adopted from a desire on the part of the Sultan to improve his relations with foreign Powers.

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No. 833.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

GREEK Consul at Cavalla, in Macedonia, reports a Mussulman attack on Greeks at Boulousta, in district of Xanthi, on first night of Bairam. Five villagers killed. Ascertain and report facts.

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No. 834.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1877, 8·15 P.M.

THE Turkish Ambassador having called upon me on the 3rd instant, I took the opportunity of advising that the Porte should make peace with Servia on the basis simply of the *status quo ante* without asking for guarantees which, if of a stringent character, are almost certain to be refused, and if otherwise are not worth the risk of failure which the demand for them would involve.

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No. 835.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877.

THE Imperial Rescript declares the exile of Midhat Pasha from Turkish territory to have been necessary on constitutional grounds. It confirms all the provisions of the Constitution, and announces the re-organisation of the finances by European specialists.

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No. 836.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 6, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877, 6·6 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA told me to-day that the bases of negotiation with Servia, as communicated yesterday to Alecco Pasha, were :—

1. Engagement not to allow revolutionary Committees.
2. Engagement to give Jews and Armenians equal civil and religious privileges with natives.
3. Not to increase number of fortresses.
4. To receive Porte's Agent at Belgrade.
5. To send to Constantinople a Delegate to treat.

He said that this last point, if agreed to, would probably bring about an understanding on all the rest, and he is most anxious that your Lordship should urge its concession at Belgrade.

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No. 837.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 6, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877, 6·10 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA, in speaking to me to-day of the bad effect which might be produced in England by the recent dismissal of Midhat Pasha, expressed his extreme anxiety lest it should induce Her Majesty's Government to abandon the independent policy which, he had been assured, they now intended to pursue with respect to Turkey.

[*] Identic telegrams were sent to Mr. Jocelyn, Mr. White, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir A. Buchanan.



What he dreads is that Russia should succeed in forming a combination among the European Powers, alleging this change of Grand Viziers as a proof of hopeless weakness.

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No. 838.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 6, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877, 6·35 P.M.

PORTE, in replying yesterday to the Prince of Montenegro, proposed following bases for peace negotiations :—

*Status quo ante.*
Rectification of frontier.
Discussion of four proposals made by Prince Nicholas to the Porte last summer.
Mission of a Delegate to treat at Constantinople.

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No. 839.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 6, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 6, 1877, 9 P.M.

PRINCE MILAN sent Sunday night another conciliatory telegram to Grand Vizier with reference to pending negotiations. This afternoon Pertew Effendi arrived here on special mission and came to see me. I facilitated his interview here, but unfortunately his instructions are out of date and have lost their force by the reported change of Grand Vizier, from whom they emanate.

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No. 840.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 7, 1877, 3·45 P.M.

YOU may use your best efforts for restoration of good understanding and preservation of tranquillity.

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No. 841.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 7, 4·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 7, 1877, 1 A.M.

BARING telegraphs that the Commission has acquitted Tossoun Bey in spite of conclusive evidence of his guilt, by a majority of four Mussulman to two Christian members.

I have consequently directed him to withdraw, and, as the important trials are now ended, to return here.

I have made strong representations to Porte on the subject.

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No. 842.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 7, 1877, 5 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your using your best endeavours to bring about an understanding between Turkey and Servia.

No. 843.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 7, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

GIVE the following message from Sir L. Simmons to Colonel Home:—

"You and all officers under your command except one, who may be retained by Colonel Lennox, as previously authorized, are to return at once to England. Captain Ardagh is also to be directed to return at once from Egypt."

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No. 844.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Pera, February* 7, 1877, 6·40 P.M.

THE Sultan sent for Safvet Pasha last night and stated to him the cause of the banishment of the late Grand Vizier—anxious that it should come to my knowledge for communication to your Lordship.

He said that for some time past Midhat Pasha had taken up a line calculated to encroach upon his Royal Prerogative and to reduce him to a mere nonentity.

Such a result is fatal to the maintenance of law and order in this country, where hitherto the paramount authority of the Sovereign was the highest incentive to obedience.

Midhat had tolerated the freedom of the press to a degree insulting to the Sultan, and when remonstrated with had appealed to the Constitution as depriving him of all power to interfere.

His Majesty then stated that from documents in his possession he felt satisfied that Midhat Pasha had failed in his allegiance by aspiring to dictatorship, and that his removal from the country became absolutely necessary.

Safvet Pasha distinctly confirmed this latter grave accusation to my informant as follows: "I conscientiously believe in Midhat Pasha's guilt."

Before taking leave of His Majesty Safvet Pasha received the assurance that he fully intended to carry out the Constitution, and that the Porte's foreign policy would remain unchanged, especially as regards the conclusion of peace so fervently desired by His Majesty.

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No. 845.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received February* 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 7, 1877, 9 P.M.

TURKISH Envoy saw Prince Milan this morning, and is satisfied with conciliatory manner in which his overtures have been received. The new Grand Vizier has confirmed his mission, but it will be most desirable that he should receive powers to conclude a definite arrangement before Servian Agent is sent to Constantinople, otherwise time spent in such a journey may imperil success by raising new difficulties.

Advantage might be taken of the presence of the Envoy at Belgrade.

Prince Milan, waiting for answer to his last communication to the Grand Vizier, possibly sees no objection to prolongation of the state of suspense, but surely it is the interest of the Porte to conclude peace promptly here.

I have delayed my departure hoping to assist in furthering so desirable a result.

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No. 846.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 7, *midnight.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 7, 1877.

FROM Minister for Foreign Affairs language to Italian, he does not seem to approve of Montenegrin negotiations taking place at Vienna.

I have received following from Monson:—

* Repeated to Constantinople.



"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have seen Prince Nicholas to-day He had suppressed his first telegram to the Grand Vizier, and has telegraphed this morning an answer in much more moderate terms, accepting negotiations on the *status quo ante* with rectification of frontier on the basis of the proposals of the Conference. He expresses the wish to treat at Vienna."

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No. 847.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 8, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

COLONEL HOME requests following may be communicated to Sir L. Simmons:—

"Your telegram received and the orders conveyed are in course of execution."

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No. 848.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 7th instant, reporting acquittal of Tossoun Bey, I approve your having directed Mr. Baring to return to Constantinople, and your having made strong representations to the Porte.

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No. 849.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1877, 4·35 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your delaying your departure from Belgrade for the present.

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No. 850.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 9, 1877, 11·15 P.M.

MONSON sends the subjoined telegram to your Lordship:—

(Confidential.)

"It seems that the Porte desires to discuss certain proposals made by Montenegro in June 1875, respecting the commercial relations of the Principality with Turkey. These proposals were drafted by the Russian Agent, and the draft is supposed to be at the Russian Consulate at Ragusa.

"His Highness is so annoyed that he has given strict orders to keep this a secret from the foreign Agents.

"The Prince's cousin, M. Petrovic, President of the Senate, will be sent to negotiate."

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No. 851.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 10, 1877.

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's telegram of yesterday, he has explained to me that he thought that any negotiations for peace will be conducted by the Prince of Montenegro's cousin. His Highness still urges that the negotiations should take place at Vienna.

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No. 852.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 10, 1876, *midnight.*

PORTE replied to Prince of Montenegro last night explaining the meaning of the points reserved for discussion, as mentioned in my telegram of the 6th instant, and in Sir H. Elliot's despatch No. 399 of 1875.

The Prince in his query to the Porte had appeared to imagine that the points proposed by the Conference were alluded to. His Highness's question is therefore regarded as disingenuous, and his attitude as open to suspicion.

Negotiations at Vienna are objected to by the Porte, as likely to be hampered by foreign interference.

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No. 853.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 11, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

ENDEAVOUR to ascertain the views of Edhem Pasha on the subject of the reforms proposed by the Conference, and whether the Porte would now be willing to adopt them when it can do so without the appearance of acting under pressure. I have already strongly advised Musurus Pasha in this sense.

I have reason to believe that if the Porte could be induced to take this course the danger of war would be greatly diminished.

No. 854.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 10, 1·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1877, 9 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th instant, outrage at Bouloustra was committed on 29th of December by Albanian brigands. They attacked the house of Panayoutic, wounded him, and murdered his wife and son.

Chief of Salonica police made number of arrests, and I am assured that this outrage is not connected with any local political or religious movement.

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No. 855.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 10, 1877, 4 P.M.

I UNDERSTAND that the four points which the Porte proposes to discuss with Montenegro refer to the navigation of the Boyana and to means of communicating between Prince of Montenegro and the Governors of the adjacent provinces for settlement of frontier and difficulties.

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No. 856.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 11, 1877.

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated to-day :—

"In answer to telegram from Grand Vizier explaining that the Porte desires that the proposals made by the Prince on the 3rd July, 1875, respecting a *modus vivendi*, should form part of the basis of negotiation, His Highness telegraphed yesterday afternoon his assent, again urging the expediency of negotiating at Vienna. The Prince is absent, and we have only now been informed of this by his secretary."

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No. 857.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received February* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 12, 1877, 10 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told me to-day that he had received satisfactory information in regard to Turco-Servian negotiations. He considered Turkish proposal for equality of Jews contravened the basis of the *status quo ante*, but he thought Porte would come to terms. He expressed desire for successful issue of negotiations, but refrained from giving advice.

General Ignatiew expected to-day.

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No. 858.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February* 12, 1877.

PORTE does not refuse to treat at Vienna, but has again proposed Constantinople.

Prince Nicholas will, I think, reply that he must hold to Vienna for the general discussion of frontier rectification, although he may hint that the final details of the proposals of 1875 can be settled at Constantinople.

The strong reason in His Highness's mind in favour of Vienna is the necessity of eliciting from the Russian Ambassador there a clear declaration that Russia does not mean to interpose any obstacles later on. His Highness is anxious to obtain reassuring

* Repeated to Constantinople and Belgrade.

assurance from high functionary, such as M. Novikoff, so as to enable him to enter into negotiation without apprehension of being checked at a later date.

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No. 859.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February 13, 1877, noon.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, the answer sent by the Prince to the Grand Vizier last night states that His Highness must maintain his preference for Vienna. I regret to add that the tone of this answer appears to me somewhat more peremptory than is suitable.

The continued absence of the Prince is very unsatisfactory, causing delay in correspondence, and much embarrassment to my Austrian colleague and myself, who are the only foreign Agents here.

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No. 860.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 13, 1877, 6·15 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER informed me to-day that Prince Nicholas had accepted Porte's conditions, but still refuses to send a Delegate to Constantinople to treat for peace. His Highness maintained that, considering territorial changes that were to be discussed, and the general nature of the negotiations, it would be practically impossible that the Porte's Ambassador at Vienna should be charged to conduct them; and he trusts that your Lordship, taking the same view of the case, will urge Prince Nicholas to comply with Porte's reasonable wishes in this matter.

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No. 861.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 13, 1877, 11 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER replied to me to-day on the subject of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant. He said that many of the reforms referred to could not be carried out until they have been sanctioned by Chamber of Deputies, to meet next month; but that several of the most important were already in course of execution.

Referring to précis of conditions demanded as the quintessence, the 7th and 8th paragraphs, respecting subdivision of provinces and election of provincial Assemblies, are being carried out; the remission of taxes in ravaged districts, and complete freedom of worship, His Highness declared to be already granted. Turkish to remain the national language. Use of irregular troops to be forbidden, except in case of absolute necessity ("force majeure"), meaning absence of regulars under very critical circumstances. Colonization of Circassians in large numbers is discontinued. Amnesty inexpedient if indiscriminately applied.

Condition of farms in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be improved whenever order is restored. Purchase of land will be facilitated without prejudice to present proprietors. Prohibition to carry arms excepting in a journey in the disturbed districts and towns already proclaimed.

Organization of police being decided, their salaries much increased, and a superior class of inspectors employed. Porte will appoint Commission of Control over the reforms. President to be member of the Government, but the details of its composition not yet determined. All the other reforms of précis must first receive sanction of Parliament.

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No. 862.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 13, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

VAHAN EFFENDI, the first Counsellor of the Minister of Justice, leaves to-morrow for England, to study working of our judicial system and the possibility of adapting it to the procedure of the Turkish Courts of law. Grand Vizier ventures to hope that he may receive the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in obtaining the information he requires.

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No. 863.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14, 9 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 13, 1877, 11·55 P.M.*

SULIMAN BEY, an aide-de-camp of the Sultan, is here on his way to Berlin and Paris, and pretends to consult an oculist. I have ascertained, however, that he saw Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, to deliver letter from the Sultan to the Emperor, which my informant says was one of courtesy, and had no reference to politics.

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No. 864.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received February 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 14, 1877, 2 P.M.*

AFTER lengthened discussions between Servian Foreign Minister and Turkish Envoy, to which I devoted my good offices, latter departed this morning for Constantinople, accompanied by two delegates of Prince Milan, who have authority to terminate negotiation. Servia accepts four Turkish demands in principle. Question of Turkish Agent at Belgrade reserved for further discussion, and position of Jews to depend on future Servian legislation. Prince Milan intends convoking an enlarged National Assembly, and to ask its approval before concluding peace. There will be, however, no further negotiations here, and I feel justified in taking my departure in a couple of days. It is to be hoped that the Porte will continue to show at Constantinople the moderation lately exhibited here.

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No. 865.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 14, 1877, 4 P.M.*

FOLLOWING has been received from Constantinople dated yesterday:—

"Grand Vizier informed me to-day that Prince Nicholas had accepted Porte's conditions, but still refuses to send a Delegate to Constantinople to treat for peace. His Highness maintained that, considering territorial changes that were to be discussed and the general nature of the negotiations, it would be practically impossible that the Porte's Ambassador at Vienna should be charged to conduct them, and he trusts that your Lordship, taking the same view of the case, will urge Prince Nicholas to comply with Porte's reasonable wishes in this respect."

Advise Prince Nicholas not to interpose difficulties in progress of peace negotiations.

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[a] Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 866.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1877, 4 P.M.

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. Monson:—

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, the answer sent by the Prince to the Grand Vizier last night states that His Highness must maintain his preference for Vienna. I regret to add that the tone of this answer appears to me somewhat more peremptory than is suitable.

"The continued absence of the Prince is very unsatisfactory, causing delay in correspondence and much embarrassment to my Austrian colleague and myself, who are the only foreign Agents here."

I have this day sent him the following message:—

"Advise Prince Nicholas not to interpose difficulties in progress of peace negotiations."

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No. 867.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February* 14, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

THE Prince has returned and I shall see him to-night. The Austrian Agent informs me that His Highness insists that the negotiations shall commence at Vienna, but will probably consent to their being continued at Constantinople as soon as a positive agreement on the most important points is reached. My Austrian colleague found His Highness' pretensions respecting territorial aggrandisement much modified, and his language altogether more satisfactory. Russia has telegraphed that she will not interfere.

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No. 868.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 15, 1877.

THE following is from Monson: "Grand Vizier telegraphed last night that Vienna is unsuitable, and that the Porte left to His Highness the choice of another place of meeting on the side of Scutari or on that of the Herzegovina. The Prince replied after midnight that as it could not be Vienna he proposed to choose Cattaro as the place most suitable with reference to the views of the Porte."

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No. 869.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

I TOLD the Russian Ambassador to-day that as circumstances had changed since the receipt of the Russian Circular of the 19th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government, after giving it their best consideration, with an earnest desire to meet the views of the Emperor in a friendly and conciliatory spirit, had determined that it would be better to defer their reply to it until events should have developed themselves, and it was seen what was the effect of the change of Government at Constantinople, both with reference to the new administrative reforms and the negotiations for peace between the Porte and Montenegro and Servia.

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[*] Repeated to Embassies and Belgrade.



No. 870.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

MR. GLADSTONE has moved for the following Return for the House of Commons:—

Of the dates, numbers, and particulars of judicial sentences, first, pronounced; secondly, executed, since the rising in Bulgaria down to the present time.

First. On persons charged with complicity in the rising.

Secondly. On persons charged with the perpetration of outrages or other misconduct in its suppression, or subsequently in relation thereto.

Tell Mr. Baring to furnish this at once, with any additional particulars he can give.

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No. 871.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 15, 1877.

PRINCELY Decree appoints 20th instant for the elections, and 26th for the meeting of the Grand National (enlarged Skouptchina) Assembly.

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No. 872.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 15, 1877, 9 P.M.

I TRUST your Lordship will have reason to be satisfied with result of Turco-Servian negotiation so far as conducted here. Ground satisfactorily broken; points of difference reduced, and peace party here greatly strengthened.

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No. 873.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February* 15, 1877, 11 P.M.

I HAVE spoken to Prince Nicholas in the sense of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday. His Highness will not consent to commence negotiations on Turkish soil, although if the Porte had agreed to begin them at Vienna he would have made but little difficulty about continuing them afterwards at Constantinople. He assures me that Servia is pledged not to make definitive peace without previous understanding with Montenegro. The fact is that the Prince is persuaded that he can afford to wait.

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No. 874.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, February* 16, 1877.

GERMAN Government will follow the example of Her Majesty's Government in regard to Russian Circular, and defer their reply for the same reasons as those telegraphed yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh by your Lordship.

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No. 875.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 16, 1877.*

I HAVE acquainted Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with the reasons reported in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday which you had given to the Russian Ambassador for deferring the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian Circular of the 31st ultimo.

His Excellency said that Count Andrassy had not yet come to any decision as to how or when he would answer the Circular, apparently from a wish to learn in the first instance the views of other Governments, and the influence which events might have upon the question.

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No. 876.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16, 1 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, February 16, 1877, 11 A.M.*

MILITARY Attaché hears that two Russians, General Coukoeuzene and M. Ismailoff, of Railway Department, went to Bucharest on the 8th ultimo, and communicated confidentially with MM. Lagnillour and Manega, of the Roumanian Railways, about transportation of 40,000 Russians to Barbosi, 40,000 to Giurgevo, and not less than 80,000 to Turno-Severin at rate of 10,000 a-day.

Russians said 165 locomotives and 800 waggons could be obtained from Warsaw line by way of Lemberg.

It was decided to lay rails with the English guage from Jassy to left bank of Pruth.

It was arranged also that artillery projectiles could be made at Roumanian Railway Works.

Sir L. Simmons and Consulate-General at Bucharest might inquire, but it should not be known that this information, which is "Very Confidential," comes from Constantinople.

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No. 877.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February 16, 1877, 7·30 P.M.*

IN consequence of the objection raised by the Grand Vizier to the selection of Cattaro as the place of negotiation, the Prince has this morning telegraphed to His Highness that, as a proof of his conciliatory disposition and of his desire to further the views of the Porte, he will send his Delegates by the first steamer to Constantinople.

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No. 878.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February 16, 1877, 10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, reporting the final consent of the Prince to treat at Constantinople, His Highness requests me to state that he has been greatly influenced by his desire to comply with wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and he hopes that your Lordship will take this into consideration, and urge the Porte to treat him with generosity.

I undertook to convey the Prince's request to your Lordship, with the clear understanding that I could make no promise. I hope, however, that the Porte is inclined to offer terms of a nature to content Montenegro.

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No. 879.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1877.*

FORWARD following to Monson:—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday, Mr. Jocelyn has been instructed to use his good offices to bring about an agreement between Porte and Montenegro."

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No. 880.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Mr. Monson:—

"With reference to my telegram of this day, reporting the final consent of the Prince to treat at Constantinople, His Highness requests me to state that he has been greatly influenced by his desire to comply with wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and he hopes that your Lordship will take this into consideration, and urge the Porte to treat him with generosity. I undertook to convey the Prince's request to your Lordship with the clear understanding that I could make no promise. I hope, however, that the Porte is inclined to offer terms of a nature to content Montenegro."

I have to instruct you to use your good offices towards bringing about an agreement.

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No. 881.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17, 5·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 17, 1877, 1·40 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has received last night from the Prince of Montenegro the assurance that he will at once send Delegates to treat at Constantinople. He considers this concession of His Highness a consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Government, and desires me to convey his sincere thanks to your Lordship.

With regard to Servia, he told me very confidentially that, in event of two points regarding Agent at Belgrade, and the position of Jews being very strongly insisted on by the Servian Envoy, Porte would be found ready to beat an honourable retreat.

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No. 882.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 18, 1877.*

THE answer of Grand Vizier as to reforms reforms reported in your telegram of the 13th is far from being satisfactory, or such as Her Majesty's Government had hoped to receive. Her Majesty's Government would have wished to hear and to be able to repeat that the Porte is now of its own accord proceeding to carry out the measures proposed by the Powers in Conference, at least in their substantial features. An announcement of this kind in reply to the Russian Circular might go far to avert the danger of hostilities on the part of Russia, which will otherwise become imminent as soon as the weather admits of military movements.

But in the statement made to you and in another telegram communicated to me by Musurus Pasha, no mention is made of the proposals of the Representatives of the Six Powers, or of the most important guarantees for the good government of the provinces. There is nothing said of any security against the arbitrary removal of the Valis, of a control by the provincial assemblies over the disposal of a portion at least of the direct taxation, or of the proportions in which Christians shall be admitted to the police. Even the reforms promised are limited by modifying phrases. The prohibition of colonization by Circassians should not be restricted by the words "in large numbers" or "in mass," for colonies can be planted by instalments. A general amnesty, if indiscriminately

applied, would include those guilty of Bulgarian atrocities, and would be worse than nothing. But there can be no reason why the mass of prisoners accused merely of participation in insurrection should not at once be released. It is impossible to form an opinion of the Commission of Control until its constitution is known. The Porte offered at the last sitting of Conference that it should be elective.

Press these considerations strongly, and see if you cannot get more satisfactory explanations, as well as assurances as to the nature of measures to be proposed to the Chamber of Deputies.

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No. 883.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February* 18, 1877, 6 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS is much gratified at the manner in which Her Majesty's Government have received his request. His Highness has received this day from Prince Gortchakow a telegram congratulating him upon his decision, and wishing success to the negotiations.

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No. 884.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 19, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1877, 2 P.M.

I SAW M. Christics this morning. He is sanguine of being able to come to an agreement.

He stated that question of position of Jews in Servia was practically settled; Porte having agreed that it should form subject of legislation.

He said that his Government, although willing if necessary to accede to mission of Turkish Agent, was especially anxious that this concession should not be recorded in instrument drawn up at the conclusion of peace. He will sound Porte as to its intentions regarding Commission for the Drina frontier.

Would your Lordship authorize me to speak to Grand Vizier in support of it? as M. Christics is unwilling that the suggestion should appear to come from him.

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No. 885.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received February* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 19, 1877.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant respecting Mr. Gladstone's motion in House of Commons, it will be some days before any detailed report can be furnished respecting sentences passed on Bulgarians. 25 were executed, 2 sentenced to death but not executed, and 2 sentenced to hard labour by special Commission presided over by Salih Effendi, at Philippopoli; 22 were sentenced to death and 20 condemned to hard labour by Ali Shefik Bey's special Commission at Tirnova, and 2 were executed at Gabrova by order of Fasly Pasha. As regards the persons tried by Saadoullah Bey's Commission for having been implicated in outrages, Achmet Aglia, of Despat, was condemned to death, December 25; Achmet Tchaousch, of Kara Boulak, to hard labour for life, January 3; Kutchuk Ksalil to 6 months' imprisonment for robbery, January 5; Alish Pehlivan to 4 years' hard labour, January 2; Achmet Tchaousch, of Dorkovo, to 3 months' imprisonment for theft, January 11; Metto Bektach condemned to death, and Fetsa, of Fergovo, to 8 years' hard labour, January 27; all these were implicated in Batak affair, and the sentences have still to receive the ratification of the Porte; Abdullah, the Kiatib of Dervent, was sentenced to 3½ years' hard labour for robbery on November 30; Tossoun Bey was acquitted February 6.

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No. 886.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877, 12:20 P.M.

IT is stated in a report from the "Times" correspondent at Pera dated 16th of February and published this morning, that Shefket Pasha has left Constantinople to take charge of an army corps on the Danube.

Her Majesty's Government can scarcely believe that this can be true. Pray ascertain and telegraph reply.

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No. 887.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877, 3 P.M.

MUSURUS PASHA told me on the 18th instant that the Porte would have great difficulty in inflicting capital punishment on those convicted of massacres and atrocities in Bulgaria.

He hoped that public opinion in England would be satisfied with a minor punishment.

I instanced, in reply, what had been done in the case of the Lebanon massacres,

and I said if Chefket Pasha, whom he mentioned, was guilty of crimes attributed to him, nothing short of death would be considered adequate punishment here. If capital sentence in case of those most deeply implicated is commuted to hard labour for life, there will be a general feeling of indignation, and no one will believe that it is not intended to remit the sentence altogether in a short time.

You should warn the Porte seriously of the danger they will run by such a course.

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No. 888.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877, 5·50 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th instant you may speak to Grand Vizier in support of a Commission for the Drina frontier if you think it will facilitate an agreement.

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No. 889.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 20, 1877.

THERE is a general impression here that Russia is about to declare war to Turkey, and I am told by a person from whom I have frequently received correct information as to coming events that the impending war will be confined to Asia, where desirable conquests, to which it is hoped Europe will be indifferent, may be made.

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No. 890.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February* 20, 1877.

ALTHOUGH the authorities deny it, matters in Miridicia are menacing, and, moreover, more troops and artillery were dispatched in the direction of the disturbed district.

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No. 891.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 20, 1877, *midnight.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Grand Vizier substance of your telegram of the 18th instant, and he has offered the following explanations of the points on which information is required:—

He thinks that sufficient guarantee against arbitrary removal of the Valis is provided by the 39th Article of the Constitution, and the control over the direct taxation is assured by the 110th Article, which, moreover, is one of the provisions of the Andrassy Note, to which he adheres.

Orders have been already given to enrol Christian as well as Mussulman volunteers in the police force being reorganized. Proportion between them will be regulated with a view to maintaining it efficient—the best being selected without regard to creed. Porte is still in search of foreigners to assist in this work, and I learn both English and French retired officers have been applied to.

His Highness could engage that, as henceforth, no special allotment of land or other privileges generally given to colonists would be granted to Circassians; nothing in the shape of colonization could in future take place; but he could no more prevent Circassian families from changing their domicile, or purchasing property, than any other subjects of the Sultan.

With regard to the amnesty, as he must refer to documents bearing on the subject, he must delay his answer for a few days.



Foreign Minister, however, was yesterday inclined to take your Lordship's view of the matter, and said that the more heinous crimes should be separately classified and dealt with later.

Commission of Control will be elective. He considers there will be no practical utility to be derived from it until the laws it is intended to superintend have received the assent of Parliament.

I cannot answer the last paragraph* of your telegram until I have seen Foreign Minister, who was to-day closely engaged with Servian Envoy, and was unable to receive me.

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No. 892.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 21, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 20, 1877, 4·49 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told me yesterday that he considered peace as good as concluded between the Porte and Servia and Montenegro.

He evinced some impatience for an answer to his Circular, saying Russian mobilization costs thirteen million roubles monthly, and that the present position could not be prolonged indefinitely.

He expressed entire confidence in Prince Bismarck and in the friendly attitude of Germany, observing that Prussia would hold to her traditional policy towards Russia. He had received no answer from Vienna, but was daily expecting one.

Prince Gortchakow seemed much discouraged by the intelligence received from London and by report of Friday's discussion in the House of Commons on the Treaty of Paris.

He observed that if Turkey felt secure from coercive measures the influence of Europe would be paralysed.

He declined to say what course Russia would take, spoke vaguely and mysteriously, hinted at withdrawal from European concert.

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No. 893.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received February* 21, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February* 21, 1877.

MY French and Italian colleagues concur with me in considering the state of affairs among the Christian tribes critical, and that continued dispatch of troops to the confines of Miridicia will probably lead to a speedy conflict.

They have telegraphed to their respective Governments this day, stating that if the Porte permits the authorities here to pursue their present aggressive course, the insurrection may shortly assume serious proportions.

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No. 894.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pera, February* 21, 1877, 7 P.M.

M. CHRISTICS communicated to me this morning the result of his first interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He found him apparently very anxious for a settlement, but on one or two points a difference of opinion had been expressed.

Porte claimed a more absolute right of prohibiting the meeting of secret societies than Servia could accede to, and had not specified its wishes on the subject.

The conversation had also turned upon the nature of the instrument which was to record the reconciliation of Servia to her Suzerain, the Porte insisting upon a note to be addressed by the Prince to the Government of the Sultan, while Servia is only willing to record her new engagements in a Protocol to be signed by both parties.

* This refers to "nature of measures to be proposed to Chamber of Deputies."—T.
† Repeated to Rome and Constantinople.

This may prove a difficulty, as well as the question of Drina frontier, a point not yet discussed, but which M. Christics appears determined to maintain, or, if conceded, to exact in return for it a corresponding advantage.

The conversation was, however, merely preliminary, and the first regular meeting will take place to-morrow.

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No. 895.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 21, 1877, 8 P.M.

A JEW was here yesterday elected member of Grand Assembly. The Servian Government thereby show a desire to meet the wishes of Porte and to facilitate negotiations.

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No. 896.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pera, February* 21, 1877, 11·48 P.M.

BESIDES communicating to Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning the substance of your telegram of yesterday respecting the execution of capital sentences on the authors of Bulgarian atrocities convicted by the Commission, he stated that it might be desirable that the Sultan should be directly informed of the feeling prevailing in England with regard to these executions.

A summary of the telegram was accordingly communicated through a confidential channel to His Majesty, whose reply was that "every attention shall be paid to Lord Derby's representations."

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No. 897.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1877, 2 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your having communicated substance of my telegram of the 20th instant to the Sultan.

You cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the feeling which prevails in England among all classes in regard to the atrocities.

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No. 898.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February* 22, 1877, 4·15 P.M.

FOLLOWING is the précis of the paragraph respecting foreign affairs in the Emperor's Speech opening the Reichstag this day:—

Germany is less liable than other Powers to possible dangers which might arise from the still unsettled Eastern crisis. My policy in this question has never varied. The Conference has not succeeded in persuading the Porte to adopt the measures decided upon as advisable; the negotiations have, however, resulted in uniting the Christian Powers among themselves as to the measure of the guarantees to be demanded from the Porte—a condition of circumstances which had never been hitherto achieved. On this basis we can hope that peace will be maintained among the Powers, even if the hope should not be realized that the Porte should execute of her own accord the reforms concerning the treatment of her Christian subjects, which were recognized by the Conference as a European necessity. Should, however, the expectations remain unfulfilled which have been attached to the hints given the Porte in this direction, as well as to the commencement of peace negotiations with Servia and Montenegro, my Government will for the future, as in the past, strive to use her influence in this question, in which German



interests do not prescribe a special line of conduct, for the protection of the Christians in Turkey, and for the preservation of European peace; especially, however, for the conservation and consolidation of her own good relations with allied and friendly nations.

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No. 899.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 22, 1877, 10 P.M.

I AM privately informed that certain bankers at Amsterdam, through a Prussian Agent, have offered to the Russian Government loan of 500,000,000 roubles in gold on very advantageous terms.

This offer has been declined, and the refusal is interpreted as an indication of peace.

I also learn that a Council of State is to be held on Saturday, under the presidency of the Emperor, where decision as to peace or war will be taken; if the former, which is confidently expected, the demobilization of the army will be ordered immediately.

It is reported that Prince Gortchakow will retire, and be succeeded by Count Adlerberg, Minister of the Imperial household, if not immediately, at no distant date.

Emperor, I am told, will not withdraw from European concert.

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No. 900.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 22, 1877, 11 P.M.

I HAVE ascertained that there is no foundation for the report mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting Chefket Pasha. He has received no military command.

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No. 901.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Green.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

USE all your efforts to secure a prudent and conciliatory course on the part of the Turkish authorities. I have telegraphed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to press the matter on the attention of the Porte.

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No. 902.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

YOU should communicate the substance of Mr. Green's telegram† repeated to you this morning to the Turkish Government, and press strongly upon them the expediency of avoiding any steps that may be likely to lead to a renewal of bloodshed in any part of European Turkey.

The moment is most critical. We have reason to believe that the Russian Government are considering their course, and that it is not impossible that their decision may be in favour of peace. But a prudent and conciliatory attitude on the part of the Porte, and an encouragement to hope for real progress and reform, is absolutely necessary to enable the Emperor to satisfy Russian public opinion. An error or even a mishap in the conduct of the Turkish authorities towards the population may produce results which will be irreparable.

* Repeated to Paris and Rome.

† No. 893.

The information I give you as to the Russian Government is secret, but you may mention it privately to the Grand Vizier and Foreign Minister.

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No. 903.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 23, 1877.*

THE principal point of the divergence between Servian Envoy and Porte as brought out at yesterday's sitting.

Servia insists upon a Protocol recording peace, whilst Porte demands a note. This point has been referred to Belgrade, and if not conceded, will cause much difficulty.

Residence of Turkish (?) Agent, although granted by Servia, must not be recorded in Protocol. This the Porte may perhaps agree to, but is still holding out.

Servia also objects to amnesty of refugees being recorded in the Protocol.

Porte insists strongly upon this being done.

The Drina frontier question is as yet untouched. Porte offers a Commission to make arrangements with regard to islands, but no territorial (question ?) has been discussed.

Considering her vanquished condition, Servian pretensions appear to me still high; but I think that I can perceive that M. Christics is holding much ground that he will eventually yield.

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No. 904.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 24, 1877.*

ITALIAN Consul at Scutari has sent same information as Consul Green respecting critical state of affairs in Miridicia, and Minister for Foreign Affairs had telegraphed in a similar sense as your Lordship to Scutari and Constantinople.

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No. 905.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.*[a]*—(Received February 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 25, 1877.*

HEARING that the conduct of Mirdite affairs had passed into hands of military authority, and good offices having been formally rejected by the Governor, I yesterday urged Commander-in-chief (not to abandon) as yet a conciliatory course.

His Excellency showed me letters that he was dispatching to Bib Doda and the other Chiefs, in which he summoned them to return to their allegiance, giving them two days' delay for consideration, and promising them future advantages in the event of their obedience.

I endeavoured to induce my French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues to write to Doda at the same time as myself, pressing him to take under serious consideration the Commander-in-chief's communication. I regret to say the French Consul said his instructions did not authorize him to take any such action in the matter, and my other colleagues would not move without formal invitation on the part of the Commander-in-chief. I have, therefore, little hope of Mirdites giving way before my unsupported action, and the Pasha tells me that in two days active operations will be certainly commenced against them.

Four thousand six hundred regular troops are already assembled on the confines of Mirdicia.

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[a] Repeated to Paris, Rome, and Berlin.



No. 906.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 25, 1877.*

I HAVE telegraphed the following to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople:—

"Received your telegram of last night.

"Both the Governor and the Commander-in-chief have this day written to Mirdite Chiefs to say that Marco will be released provided the blockade of the high roads is raised. I am not quite sure that the Chiefs will act upon the simple promise of the Turkish authorities.

"I am led to believe that the Porte has given strict orders that no foreign intervention of any kind is to be permitted, and that Doda is to be treated as a rebel. The Chiefs are not likely to separate themselves from Doda, and therefore matters will probably remain unsettled as long as influence of this Chief is ignored.

"Sent home."

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No. 907.

*The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Rome, and Vienna.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

YOU will communicate substance of Mr. Green's telegram* to Government to which you are accredited, and express hope of Her Majesty's Government that their Representative may be authorized to act in concert with Mr. Green, in recommending conciliation.

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No. 908.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26, 4·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 26, 1877, 2·12 P.M.*

THE National Assembly met to-day for preliminary business.

The Prince will open it in person two days later.

Violent speeches are expected against the Porte; the sittings will therefore be held with closed doors. Majority of delegates appear in favour of peace.

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No. 909.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 26, 1877.*

FRENCH Ambassador at St. Petersburgh telegraphs to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Emperor Alexander said to him that a manifesto of the Porte engaging to execute such of the recommendations of the Conference as its own Plenipotentiaries had accepted might simplify many things.

The Ambassador does not vouch for giving the exact words of the Emperor, but is sure of His Majesty's meaning.

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No. 910.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 26, 1877.*

I HAVE received the following from Monson, dated to-day:—

(Decypher.) For Lord Derby.

Prince Nicholas assures me that he has given strict orders that at the expiration of the armistice no movement which can be construed in an offensive sense

* No. 905.

shall be made by his troops, who will continue to occupy their present positions, and will only defend themselves if attacked.

I think that His Highness hopes that Her Majesty's Government will induce Porte to propose prolongation of the armistice as soon as his Delegates arrive at Constantinople.

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No. 911.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 26, 1877.*

I HAVE been informed that the Porte's demand for the insertion of a clause respecting Ottoman Agent at Belgrade, in the note to be addressed to the Grand Vizier by the Servian Government, has met with determined opposition from M. Christich.

Such a concession would, he says, be certainly ill received by the Skuptschina now assembled, and would inevitably provoke fresh intrigues on the part of Russia to compromise the stability of a peace concluded under such conditions.

He thinks that if your Lordship could urge, through M. Musurus, Porte to forego this point, they would probably give way.

Besides the note a Protocol will be signed by both parties in which the amnesty will be mentioned; and, should difficulty respecting Agent be overcome, the preliminaries of peace could be signed forthwith.

This information Servian Agent communicated to me confidentially.

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No. 912.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27, 6·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1877, 4·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, in speaking to me to-day of the execution of the sentences passed upon the convicted Turks and Bulgarians, wished to ascertain the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the effect to be given to your Lordship's suggestions to Odian Effendi, as reported at the close of your Lordship's despatch No. 49 of the 20th ultimo.

The question of the extent to which the amnesty is to affect prisoners now under sentence embarrasses the Porte's action, and he has commissioned me to ask whether your Lordship would recommend that only those condemned to death should undergo sentence, or whether some under minor sentences should be included in the same category, and if so, where the line should be drawn.

I suggested as my personal opinion, that all capitally convicted, whether their sentences have been commuted or not, should form class excluded from amnesty, but I promised to refer the question to your Lordship.

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No. 913.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 27, 1877.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs this morning the substance of your telegram of yesterday, embodying Mr. Green's telegram of the 24th, and inviting Austrian co-operation to prevent hostilities between Dervish Pasha and the Mirdites.

His Excellency promised to communicate my memorandum to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but said it appeared probable, from a telegram of 25th instant from Austrian Consul at Scutari, that a collision had already taken place in which the Turkish troops must, in his opinion, have been defeated. He considers Dervish Pasha to be seeking an opportunity for re-establishing his military reputation, and to be entirely responsible for the present difficulties, and that no representations are therefore likely to induce Hib Doda to place confidence in his Excellency's promises or to make any concession until his delegates imprisoned at Scutari are released.



I urged, however, that the intervention of the Consuls, by moderating the pretensions of the Mirdites and giving moral weight to the Pasha's promises, might bring about a pacific arrangement; and, as I met Minister for Foreign Affairs returning to Ministry as I left it, I acquainted him verbally with your Lordship's wishes, and pressed upon him the expediency of complying with them.

He said that Hib Doda has always been recommended by Austria not to join Montenegro, and to avoid offending the Porte; and he promised to consider whether he could not assist Her Majesty's Government in preventing a complication which it is desirable to avert.

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No. 914.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, February 27, 1877.*

I HAVE been informed that no definite decision was taken at the Council held on Saturday; the tone was pacific, but it was decided to await further information from London, and the conclusion of the Turco-Servian peace negotiations.

Might not the Porte, in notifying the conclusion of peace, also announce to Powers its intention to reduce its army to peace effective, but without any reference whatever to Russian armaments?

It might also announce its acceptance of and intention of carrying out the reforms recommended by the Conference, or at least a portion of them. This would greatly facilitate pacific solution by Emperor of Russia. Prince Gortchakow told me to-day that Russia had 400,000 men ready to march, and that the Porte should not be led astray by reports of Russia being unprepared or determined for peace at all price.

I have thought it right to speak to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires here in the above sense.

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No. 915.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received February 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1877.*

I HAVE been informed by M. Christich that the Porte has given way upon the question of the Agent at Belgrade, and that conclusion of peace may be regarded as settled as soon as Sultan has issued the necessary Firman.

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No. 916.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 27, 1877.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs seems to shrink from the responsibility of encouraging Mirdites to trust to the Turkish promises made to them.

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No. 917.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 28, 1877.*

THE Great Assembly voted unanimously this morning in favour of peace, after which it was immediately dissolved.

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* Repeated to Embassies

No. 918.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28, 3·45 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 28, 1877, 12·30 P.M.*

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has telegraphed that he believes the Porte intends, on the conclusion of peace with Servia and Montenegro, to summon Russia to disarm, or to propose simultaneous disarmament by Russia and Turkey.

Turkish Minister here says that he has no knowledge of such an intention.

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No. 919.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 28, 1877, 4 P.M.*

HAS Mr. Baring yet furnished the detailed statement of the punishments on account of occurrences in Bulgaria, required in my telegram of the 15th instant?

It would be sufficient if the information were down to the 9th or the 15th instant. Mr. Gladstone is pressing for it.

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No. 920.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 28, 1877, 5·5 P.M.*

THE suggestion I made to Odian Effendi must have been misunderstood. I did not recommend that any persons convicted of the Bulgarian massacres should be respited or amnestied.

The suggestion was that a large number of those imprisoned for being concerned in the insurrection should be amnestied as political offenders.

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No. 921.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 28, 1877.*

PORTE telegraphed last night to the Prince of Montenegro, proposing a prolongation of the armistice to the 21st of March.

Delegate expected to-morrow.

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No. 922.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.* —(Received February 28, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 28, 1877.*

THE Protocol and the Note have been approved by the Skuptschina, will be signed at the Porte to-morrow morning.

Protocol contains three Articles: first, announcing the issue of Firman; secondly, amnesty to all concerned in late war; thirdly, evacuation of territory within twelve days. This will be signed by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Delegates.

Note will enumerate four points: fortress and flag; prevention of armed bands on Turkish territory; secret societies; relief of Jewish disabled.

It will be signed by Servian Delegates.

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* Repeated to Embassies.



No. 923.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 1, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 27th I approve your language to Turkish Chargé d'Affaires respecting reduction of armaments and reforms recommended by Conference.

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No. 924.

*Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, March 1, 1877.*

NEWS of peace between Turkey and Servia received here with general content.

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No. 925.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 1, 1877.*

FOLLOWING is from Mr. Monson, dated yesterday:—

"Tell Foreign Office Porte announces extension of the armistice until 21st instant exclusively. Prince Nicholas consults Prince Milan before replying."

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No. 926.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 1, 1877.*

ITALIAN Ambassador here has communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs information similar to that reported by Sir A. Paget as to Porte's intentions to ask for explanation of Russia's mobilization, and to propose mutual disarmament, but no confirmation of report has been received from other sources.

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No. 927.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 1, 1877.*

INTELLIGENCE has been received here that the difficulty with the Mirdites has been got over for the present by the release of the imprisoned delegates.

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No. 928.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1, 5·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 1, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to the Italian Consul at Scutari to join his English colleague in recommending prudence and conciliation, as desired in your Lordship's telegram of the 26th ultimo.

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No. 929.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 1, 1877.

EVERY effort has been made to obtain information asked for by your telegram of the 15th ultimo, but detailed statements are very difficult to obtain

List of persons condemned by Philippopolis special Commission will be sent by to-morrow's post; but though information has been promised from Roustchouk, Sofia, and Adrianople, it had not been received yet.

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No. 930.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 1, 1877, 6·40 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction the result of the peace negotiations with Servia, and they approve your efforts to assist in arriving at the present arrangement.

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No. 931.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received March* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 1, 1877.

THE Mirdite Chief Markos, whose imprisonment at Scutari was the principal cause of the disturbances, has been liberated to-day and allowed to return to his tribe. Grand Vizier promised me this some days ago, but he has only now sent orders to do so unconditionally. It is to be hoped that tranquillity will be now restored.

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No. 932.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*†—(*Received March* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 1, 1877.

WITH reference to telegram from Sir A. Paget received here to-day, I cannot too strongly state my conviction that any summons on the part of Turkey to Russia to disarm, or even any proposition, however conciliatory, for a simultaneous disarmament, will be resented by Russia, and will lead to immediate war.

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No. 933.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.*†—(*Received March* 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, March* 1, 1877.

PRINCE NICHOLAS telegraphs to Grand Vizier that foreseeing that the Montenegrin Delegates would not arrive at Constantinople before the expiration of the armistice, he had already given orders to his Commanders not to commit nor permit any act of hostility whatever without orders from himself.

His Highness is evidently annoyed at the want of courtesy in the Grand Vizier's last message, announcing the prolongation of the armistice and almost bidding him to give orders in consequence.

Servian Government telegraphs that the Skuptschina has agreed to make peace on the basis of the *status quo*, and that Prince Milan waits for the consent of his ally before sanctioning the Treaty.

Prince Nicholas has not yet sent an answer to Belgrade, but he thinks that Servia ought at least to wait until his Delegates arrive at Constantinople.

It is my duty to state to Her Majesty's Government that at present Prince

* Repeated to Paris and Rome. † Repeated to Constantinople.



Nicholas is by no means disposed to make peace without very substantial advantages, and that, in my opinion, he will not easily give way. I think it right also to point out that he is very susceptible as to language which the Porte employs to him, and that any attempt at dictation will probably interrupt the negotiations.

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No. 934.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 2, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"For Lord Derby. With reference to my telegram of this afternoon, I am informed that Prince Nicholas has telegraphed to Prince Milan, in very calm language, that in view of the prejudice which Servia's separate action would cause to Montenegrin interests, he cannot [assent to?] Prince Milan's ratification of the Servian Assembly."

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No. 935.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 2, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 2, 1877, 12·15 P.M.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has been informed by Prince Gortchakow that as General Ignatiew wants to consult an oculist, advantage has been taken of the opportunity to instruct him to go to Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and London, in which capitals he will give explanations which will facilitate the answers to the Russian Circular.

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No. 936.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 3, 1877.

GENERAL IGNATIEW left this yesterday for London, ostensibly to consult an oculist.

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No. 937.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received March* 3, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER has assured me that Porte had never intended summoning Russia to disarm, nor would it ever entertain such an idea.

With regard to the disarmament of Turkey, his Highness said that no resolution whatever had yet been taken by the Porte, but considering the enormous expenditure actually incurred, it would certainly be necessary to place the army on a peace footing after the conclusion of peace.

His Highness would gladly be guided by the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the future policy of Turkey.

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No. 938.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.*†—(*Received March* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 3, 1877.

WHILE the authorities here state that they have now decided not to attack the Mirdites, they have ordered all the market towns to be closed to them. This may lead to reprisals.

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* First paragraph repeated to Embassies. † Repeated to Paris, Rome, and Constantinople.

No. 939.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4, 12·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1877, 10·55 A.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul at Prevesa, dated yesterday:—

"Consular Agent at Janina informs me of existence of plan to revolutionize Epirus, to break out first in Chimara district, and then in Radowitiz, Fournegona, and Sullihaw."

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No. 940.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 4, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"To Lord Derby:

"Montenegrin delegates telegraph that they have been very civilly received by the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The negotiations will formally begin on the 5th instant.

"Prince Milan having telegraphed insisting on the necessity of Prince Nicholas' assent, His Highness answers that he leaves the situation to the appreciation of his ally."

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No. 941.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5, 11·30 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877, 10 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"For the Foreign Office:

"Grand Vizier asks Prince Nicholas to state by telegraph that he has given orders to his Commanders to observe the armistice until 21st instant exclusively. His Highness will probably reply to-night that his telegraph of the 1st instant implied his adhesion to the armistice as proposed by the Porte."

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No. 942.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5, 11·30 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877, 10·6 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"To Lord Derby:

"With reference to my telegram of this evening Prince Nicholas has telegraphed to his Delegates to make to-morrow to the Grand Vizier the formal announcement of his acceptance of the prolongation of the armistice."

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No. 943.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5, 1 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877, 11·15 A.M.*

IT appears to me that the success of the negotiations for peace with Montenegro would be greatly promoted if Monson were authorized to inform the Prince that Her Majesty's Government have reason to hope that war between Russia and Turkey will be averted.

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No. 943*.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, March 5, 1877, 6·30 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrived yesterday and had an interview with Prince Bismarck which lasted six hours.

To-day he is to have an audience of the Emperor.

His language is said to be conciliatory and pacific.

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No. 944.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 5, 1877.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day and said that he was authorized by his Government to request Her Majesty's Government to delay their reply to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th January, until they had received certain further explanations which the Russian Government had to offer.

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No. 945.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 5, 1877.*

MONSON is under an impression that Austria will object to territory of Montenegro being extended towards the Herzegovina; but the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs assured me to-day that the demand of Prince Nicholas for a [? port]* is the only one considered objectionable here.

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No. 946.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6, 6 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, March 6, 1877, 3·45 P.M.*

I HAVE been informed that General Ignatiew is charged with a special mission to effect an agreement with Her Majesty's Government on Eastern affairs; he will return by Paris and Vienna.

Prince Gortchakow expresses entire confidence in the acceptance by Germany of any arrangement made with England. Considers that Austria must give adhesion to it; his first and principal object is to come to an agreement with England; it is the reverse of the course pursued on occasion of the Berlin Memorandum.

My private opinion is that General Ignatiew will make every effort to succeed, in the hope of obtaining thereby the Embassy at London, which is the great object of his Excellency's ambition.

I believe, likewise, that the Emperor of Russia is determined not to engage in war.

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No. 947.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, March 6, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following to Consul-General at Bucharest:—

"Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning showed me a telegram from the Porte's Representative at Toulteha, saying that Prince Charles of Roumania had just concluded a secret engagement with Russia."

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No. 948.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 6, 1877, 8 P.M.*

SINCE addressing to your Lordship my telegram of to-day, I have been informed that the mission of General Ignatiew to London is abandoned, in consequence of a telegram from the Russian Ambassador in London.

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* Word omitted by cypherer.

No. 949.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)

*Berlin, March 7, 1877.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW is to propose that the Powers should sign a Protocol, recapitulating the points agreed to in the Conference, and invite the Turkish Government to re-consider their decision.

In the event of a refusal, the Powers would undertake to re-discuss among themselves other means of obtaining the desired improvement in the condition of the Christians.

German Emperor and Prince Bismarck see no objection to this proposal, and are willing to agree to it for the sake of peace, if the other Powers consent to support it.

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No. 950.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.*[5]

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, March 8, 1877, 6 P.M.*

THE report mentioned in your despatch No. 82 of the 6th, that I had requested General Ignatiew not to come to London because his presence during the Session would greatly embarrass Her Majesty's Government, is absolutely unfounded, and you are authorized to contradict it.

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No. 951.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, March 8, 1877.*

PRINCE BISMARCK requests me to tell your Lordship that the German Government have decided, in the interest of peace, to support General Ignatiew's proposals if the other Powers are equally willing to do so.

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No. 952.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received March 8, 7 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Constantinople, March 8, 1877, 2 P.M.*

THE demands of Montenegrin Delegates are as follows:—

Roughly speaking, the rectification of the frontier proposed at the Conference, with the addition of the islands at the northern end of the Lake of Scutari, but not including the territory on the north-western side of the Southern Zubci.

The port of Spizza, and a small portion of the country, uniting it to the Principality. Freedom of navigation of the Boyan, and engagement to render it navigable to small vessels; Montenegro to furnish a proportion of men for this work. Restoration to their homes of 80,000 refugees from Herzegovina.

Any difficulty raised respecting the cession of territory about and north of Nichsich on the north, and of right bank of the Moracha on the south, will convince Delegates that further negotiations would be fruitless.

Porte has appointed Moukhtar Pasha and Constant Pasha to treat on its behalf. I have pointed out the imprudence of this step, which may seriously compromise the success of the negotiations.

I shall see Moukhtar Pasha, and ascertain his views.

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* Repeated to Paris, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Constantinople, and Rome.
† Repeated to Vienna.



No. 953.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received March 8, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Constantinople, March 8, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER has asked me to communicate the following reforms to your Lordship as being enactment (?) of the Parliament, and at present in the course of execution:—

Reorganization of police under Colonel Baker, as reported in my despatch No. 160 of 2nd instant.

Subdivision of the cazas into nahiés.

Admission of Christians into police.

Admission of Christians into military and administrative colleges.

Prohibition of Circassian colonies in Roumelia.

Non-employment of Bashi-Bazouks.

Remission of taxes in ravaged districts.

Waste lands have already been, and are being given, in Bosnia and Herzegovina to labouring classes.

Facilities of purchase of land accorded to Christians.

Freedom of worship to all denominations; in short, all the proposals of Andrassy note are accepted, and will be executed.

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No. 954.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received March 8.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburgh, March 8, 1877, 6 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW cautioned me to-day against believing and reporting the false rumours current here of peace at all price. His Highness said that Russia was most anxious for a pacific solution, but some guarantee was required for an amelioration of the condition of the Christians in Turkey. With a view to obtain this end His Highness stated that a proposal would be submitted to Her Majesty's Government, not as an ultimatum, but open to modifications.

Prince Bismarck, he said, had expressed his entire concurrence in this proposal.

Russian Ambassador in London was to meet General Ignatiew to-day at Paris.

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No. 954 A.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

*Vienna, March 8, 1877, midnight.*

IN a private telegram Monson reports that he has been told confidentially by the Prince of Montenegro, that his demand for a port is the only one on which he may possibly not insist; that, if he gives it up, it will be out of deference to Austria, of whose policy he complains bitterly.

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No. 954 B.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)

*Berlin, March 9, 1877.*

THERE was a reception at Court last night, at which great anxiety prevailed respecting the success of General Ignatiew's mission.

The Emperor told me that peace or war now depended on the attitude of England, and he most earnestly hoped Her Majesty's Government would be able to support Russia, and maintain peace.

The Ministers and Generals present spoke in the same sense.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 955.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

THE Italian Ambassador read to me to-day a telegram from his Government, stating that General Ignatiew had told Italian Ambassador at Berlin that Russia could not leave for a year Christians in Turkey exposed to Mussulman fanaticism; that Powers should pledge themselves, after two months, to consult whether Porte had seriously undertaken the necessary reforms or not; such an agreement to be embodied in a Protocol.

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No. 956.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1877, 7·50 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your conduct, as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

You are authorized to use your good offices, if opportunity offers, to bring about a settlement between the Porte and Montenegro.

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No. 957.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 10, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 10, 1877, 2 P.M.

AS the Minister for Foreign Affairs mentioned to me some days ago, the report itself having been intimated to General Ignatiew, that his presence in London might cause inconvenience to Her Majesty's Government, I requested Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to-day to inform his Excellency that your Lordship had stated it to be unfounded; and I am told he observed that the objection must have come from Count Schouvaloff.

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No. 958.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 10, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 10, 1877, 2·31 P.M.

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram of the 8th instant, I have been informed by Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that it was not quite correct to state that Prince Bismarck had expressed his entire concurrence in the proposals of Russia, as his Highness has merely said that the proposed Protocol does not appear to contain provisions which could be objected to as engaging in any way the future action of the Powers.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs professed to be unacquainted with the terms of the Protocol.

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No. 959.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 10, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 10, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

DURING an interview which I had to-day with the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs he was sent for by Count Andrassy.

I therefore gave him a Memorandum of the reforms in Turkey reported in Mr. Jocelyn's telegram of the 8th instant as being already in the course of execution, and I requested him to communicate it to (? his Excellency).

[*] Repeated to Sir A. Buchanan, and told him "to inform Monson by telegraph."



On his return he said it had been read with much interest and satisfaction by his Excellency.

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No. 960.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

GENERAL IGNATIEW has told Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin that the Porte may avoid war by concluding peace with Montenegro, setting seriously to work at reforms, and sending a capable Ambassador to St. Petersburgh; that the Powers would probably demand these measures, and that Turkey would do wisely to take the initiative.

I have told Musurus Pasha, who has communicated this to me confidentially, that his Government had better accept the overture as made with a friendly intention; and that I thought it would be well that they should have a competent Ambassador at St. Petersburgh.

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No. 961.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*[*]*—(Received March* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 10, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has told me that the demands of Prince of Montenegro with regard to districts of Nichsich and right bank of the Morneha cannot be complied with.

Porte has offered small rectification of frontier near Zubza and the Piva on the side of Herzegovina; but demands in return cession of a portion of territory south of Kolastchin.

The question will be referred to Council of Ministers to-morrow, but I fear there is little chance of an arrangement on the Prince's basis.

I have tendered the good offices of Her Majesty's Government, but unless Porte were convinced that Russia would regard a non-settlement as a *casus belli*, I do not think that it would yield. My Austrian colleague is instructed to support the Prince's claim, but to abstain from actively pressing that relating to a port.

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No. 962.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 10, 1877, 5·40 P.M.

I HAVE been informed on good authority that Halil Cherif Pasha is about to proceed to Paris as the Porte's Ambassador.

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No. 963.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 10, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin informs the Grand Vizier that he has been requested by General Ignatiew to communicate to him unofficially a very simple proceeding which would lead to peace. This should consist in conclusion of peace with Montenegro, prosecution of work of reform, and the sending to St. Petersburgh of an able Ambassador charged with such explanations to the Emperor as would reestablish ancient good relations between Turkey and Russia. Europe will, perhaps, insist on these points, but in any case it would wish the Porte to take the initiative as the only means by which war can be avoided.

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[*] Repeated to Vienna for Mr. Monson.

No. 964.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(Received March 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1877, 11·40 P.M.*

MOUKHTAR PASHA explained to me this morning the strategical reasons for refusing the cession of Nichsich and Spuz to Montenegro.

On the north, his Excellency said, were the desired territory ceded, Turkey would have no line of defence but that of Trebigné, Gatchko, and Focha; amounting, in fact, to the cession of more than half of the Herzegovina.

On the south, to retire from the frontier to the right bank of the Moracha would involve loss of four principal fortresses guarding Albania.

The cession of these two districts would infallibly call forth a most dangerous outburst from the Mussulman population of European Turkey.

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No. 965.

*Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.† —(Received March 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, March 10, 1877.*

I HAVE informed Prince Nicholas that Her Majesty's Government have instructed Mr. Jocelyn to use his good offices to bring about an arrangement between Turkey and Montenegro.

His Highness charges me to state to your Lordship that the Porte offers portions of four districts in exchange for part of the Vassoiviéchi, which is his most valuable district. His Highness declares that he foresees an arrangement to be impossible, as he must insist on receiving at least as much as Powers proposed; but that he has told his Delegates not to leave Constantinople at present.

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No. 966.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 11, 1877, 9 A.M.*

THE following is from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"Am requested by Prince Nicholas to invoke the intervention of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the execution by the Turkish authorities of the stipulation of the Convention for the transport of provisions, reported in my despatch of the 8th ultimo. The snow has been falling since the 21st, and is six feet deep on the mountains, consequently only 120 horseloads have yet arrived at Nichsich; but the Prince has applied to the Austrian Government to help to clear the road, and will do his utmost to send provisions quickly. The Turks, however, make this a pretext for refusing to send any grain to the head of Lake Scutari, and the people of the eastern districts are suffering terribly from famine in consequence. The Turks have accumulated a certain quantity of grain at Scutari. The Prince hopes that in the interest of humanity Her Majesty's Government will urge the Porte not to delay forwarding the grain, engaging himself solemnly to keep his part of the contract as soon as the route to Nichsich can be cleared."

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* Repeated to Vienna for Mr. Monson.

† Repeated to Constantinople.



No. 966.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 12, 1877, 5 P.M.*

FORWARD following to Monson:—

"Your telegram of the 10th instant respecting transport of stores to Nichsich has been reported to Constantinople, and Mr. Jocelyn is instructed to endeavour to get the matter arranged, and report the result to you."

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No. 967.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 12, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

MR. MONSON telegraphs as follows under date of March 10:—

[See No. 965.]

You will endeavour to get this matter arranged at the Porte, and inform Mr. Monson.

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No. 968.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, March 12, 1877, at night.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW is expected here on Friday.

Count Andrassy said to me this evening that he cannot express an opinion on the proposals of Russia until he has seen it in writing, but that he will sign nothing which he cannot defend in Parliament, or which might engage the future action of the Government.

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No. 969.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 13, 1876, 9·15 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Monson to-day:—

"Prince Nicholas is much gratified at the action of Her Majesty's Government respecting transport of provisions to Nichsich.

"Austrian authorities have cleared the road from the sea to the frontier of the Herzegovina; but the weather threatens more snow."

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No. 970.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Vienna, March 13, 1877, 10 P.M.*

MONSON has reason to believe that the Austrian Government do not object to the cession of Spitza, but only to the cession of the district of Sutorina (*sic*), Bocche di Cattaro.

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No. 971.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 13, 1877, 5 P.M.*

FOLLOWING sent to Monson:—

"The quality of the provisions supplied to Niehsich by Prince Nicholas has been so bad as to be practically unfit for consumption.

"The Porte has asked to be allowed to revictual Niehsich itself from Scutari, food being transported either by Turks or Montenegrins if the former are objected to. If this were granted, orders would be immediately sent for the acceleration of the transmission of grain to the Eastern districts."

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No. 972.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 14, 1877, 1 A.M.*

A LETTER was sent by last Friday's mail to the "Daily News," giving full details of the outrage lately committed by Turkish soldiers at Podsarko, near Vodina, in Macedonia. Its statements should be received with caution, and judgment upon the case should be reserved until the Commission, which has been appointed by the Governor-General of Salonica, consisting of one Mussulman and one Christian member proposed by Mr. Blunt, has made its report.

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No. 973.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14, 5:30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 14, 1877, 2:16 P.M.*

SEVERAL demonstrations by Softas have lately taken place in Stamboul. Their object is to demand recall of Midhat Pasha, fearing that (the) Ministry may make concessions to Montenegro.

Placards have also been posted in streets to same effect, advocating the dismissal of Sultan's brother-in-law and of Minister of War, who is considered incapable.

Several arrests have been made.

Minister of Police has been dismissed, and replaced by Commandant of Silistria, said to be very fanatical.

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No. 974.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1877, 6 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador informed me yesterday afternoon that his Government had already urged on the Prince of Montenegro to be moderate in his negotiations with the Porte, and that they were continuing to give advice in that sense.

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No. 975.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 14, 1877.*

THE Chancery was also unable to decypher Monson's telegram of last night, but send directly copy, as they presume the figures ought to be:—

"I have received the three telegrams of yesterday. With reference to strategical reasons alleged by Mukhtar Pasha against acceding to the Prince's demands, I have no hesitation in saying that, on the side of Herzegovina, they are fallacious, as every European military man (who) knows the district and the history of the last campaign will



No. 971*.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 13, 1877, 11:30 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that Turkey was willing to cede to Montenegro certain portions of territory on the north provided that the Prince of Montenegro were willing to recognise the suzerainty of the Porte. This condition was indispensable, seeing that by the Treaty of Paris the Porte could not alienate any territory except by the consent of the Guaranteeing Powers. The demands of Montenegro being virtually those imposed by the Plenipotentiaries, Porte had already rejected by breaking off the Conference, and his Excellency maintained that England had proposed that peace should be concluded with Principality on the basis of the *status quo*. He was fully alive to the danger of war with Russia arising from a renewal of hostilities with Principality, and to the fearful consequences which such a contest might involve, expressing a hope that, in the interest of all, the Powers would impose their will upon the Prince of Montenegro to dissuade him from demanding what could not be conceded.

In any case, he said, Turkey, while maintaining a sufficient force to keep Montenegro in check, was willing to offer most solemn assurances of her readiness to execute all the reforms already accepted by her in the Conference, and that if she could obtain from any of the Great Powers a reasonable security against attack from Russia, she would not hesitate to disarm immediately.

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No. 974*.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 14, 1877, 6:10 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government consider that the Porte is very ill-advised to be raising the difficulties reported in your telegram of the 13th instant, with regard to Montenegro Pacification of insurgents, and peace generally, will be scarcely possible if the war with Montenegro is kept open.

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agree. Nichsich is and always will cause a weakness to the Turks and the line of Trebigné, Gatzko, and Foche is actually their present line of defence.

There is more to be said for the retention of Spuz as a point of great strategical importance for the defence of Albania.

Mukhtar's official false reports of his successes in the Herzegovina make it incumbent on him to maintain a fatally erroneous line of argument in the present discussion.

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No. 976.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 14, 1877, 10 P.M.

I HAVE forwarded to Jocelyn a copy of the following telegram from Monson :—

"Prince Nicholas requests me to state that he readily accepts the proposition of the Porte to allow the revictualment of Nichsich from Scutari to be made by means of Turks, to whose employment he has no objection whatever, and will do all in his power to facilitate the operation by placing, if the Porte wishes, 200 horses *gratis* at their disposal at Spuz, being all the horses available. I am telegraphing to Consul-General Green to concert matters with Vali at Scutari, so as to obviate delays and difficulties. Prince Nicholas desires me to express to you his gratitude for your good offices, and his hope that the Porte will immediately give orders for the transmission of his grain, His Highness being determined on his side to carry out faithfully all the stipulations of his Agreement."

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No. 977.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 14, 1877, 10·30 P.M.

INTELLIGENCE having been received here that the Grand Council at Constantinople has resolved that no territorial extension should be granted to Montenegro, I am told that Minister for Foreign Affairs stated to-day to the Turkish Ambassador, that without wishing to interfere in the question he must, as a friend, strongly advise the Porte, if it desires a peaceful issue from its present difficulties, to make concessions to Prince Nicholas, in accordance with recommendations of Conference.

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No. 978.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 14, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

I HAVE been informed that an extensive movement is on foot here for the dismissal of the brother-in-law of the Sultan and of the [? Minister of War].

The Softa party are determined to carry out this measure, which they consider indispensable to avert revolution and anarchy; but they have not yet matured their plan of operations, and are desirous of avoiding bloodshed, if possible.

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No. 979.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1877, 2·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 151 of March 1, when will the remainder of the returns of sentences be furnished?

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No. 980.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15, 4·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 15, 1877, 3 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW tells me that he and his wife start for London by the mail train to-morrow morning, and go to Hatfield on Saturday afternoon.

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No. 981.

*Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March 15, 1877.*

STATE of districts of the Banialuka and Bihatch unchanged as far as known. Insurgent bands in all directions. No fresh atrocities heard of here. Emigration reported at Britchka on account of wishes of the troops and authorities, and general discontent.

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No. 982.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 15, 1877, 5 P.M.*

AFTER receiving to-day your Lordship's despatch No. 70 of the 12th instant, I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and found that the Russian Ambassador had just communicated to him a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, stating that all the Powers had accepted the Russian proposal for the signature of a Protocol except Austria, and that her answer was anxiously waited for.

His Excellency said that he had stated in reply, that though ready to agree to sign a Protocol, he could express no opinion on the text of one which he was still officially ignorant of, and respecting which he had only received contradictory telegrams from Austrian Ambassadors at London and Paris. It appeared, however, he said, from Count Beust's reports that Her Majesty's Government had already accepted the principle of the Russian proposals, and he asked whether I was instructed to ascertain his opinion upon them.

I answered that your Lordship had sent me confidentially the draft of a Protocol submitted to you on the 11th instant, by Count Schouvaloff, but without any instructions respecting it, doubtless under an impression that it would be communicated to him by Russian Government, and as he expressed the wish to see it, I showed him confidentially the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch.

After reading them he authorized me to inform you that he accepted in principle the proposal for the signature of a Protocol, but could not say more until he received the text of the draft which may finally be agreed upon by your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff.

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No. 983.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16, 11·45 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 16, 1877.*

MUSURUS, in reporting the conversation with your Lordship respecting the three conditions proposed by General Ignatiew to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, said that you had stated that Russia would not be satisfied even if they were complied with.

Porte considers that this statement proves the uselessness of making sacrifices in order to conclude peace with Montenegro.

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No. 984.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 16, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to Consul Skene's despatch to you of the 20th February, I have to instruct you strongly to urge the Turkish Government to send immediate orders to Aleppo for the arrest and trial of the persons concerned in the murder of the Cavass of Her Majesty's Consulate at Aleppo, and to ask the Porte for pecuniary indemnity for the family of the murdered man.

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No. 985.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul Skene.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 16, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 20th ultimo, Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has been instructed strongly to urge Turkish Government to send immediate orders to Aleppo for the arrest and trial of the persons concerned in the murder of the Cavass of Her Majesty's Consulate, and to ask Porte for a pecuniary indemnity for his family.

You are authorized to give the widow such immediate relief as her circumstances require.

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No. 986.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 16, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of March 14 respecting outrage at Podsarskoe, ascertain and report by telegraph whether Commission has been constituted, and when it will report.

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No. 987.

*Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Berlin, March 16, 1877.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW has already communicated to German Government the modifications proposed by Her Majesty's Government in his Protocol.

The German Emperor has instructed Prince Bismarck to urge their adoption at St. Petersburgh as strongly as possible.

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No. 988.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 16, 1877.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Monson :—

"(For Lord Derby.)

"I told Prince Nicholas this afternoon that I learn from Sir A. Buchanan that it is almost certain that an understanding will be arrived at with Russia for the preservation of peace.

"Italian Agent at Ragusa has telegraphed this afternoon to the same effect, adding that the Porte refuses to cede Nicksich and Spuz; and that as rupture of the negotiations may be dreaded, the Italian Government appeals to His Highness' notorious moderation and love of peace to make concessions.

"From all that has passed between me and the Prince, I am sure that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to persuade him to give up his demands for Nichsich on the side of Herzegovina, and for the Kutchi district on that of Albania.

"He said that he may be brought to relinquish his other pretensions on the side of Albania if he gains what he asks for in the Herzegovina; but I think that it would be advisable to wait for a fresh communication from the Montenegrin Delegates, and to allow His Highness to make the first concessions spontaneously. I venture, therefore, to recommend that Her Majesty's Government should defer for the present instructing me to use pressure, the time for which is not, in my opinion, yet come.

"My Austrian colleague telegraphs in the same sense to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and we are entirely agreed as to the steps we should take together."

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No. 989.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 16, 1877.*

THE information I gave privately to Monson, referred to in his telegram last night, was that "from the reports received at Vienna by the newspapers and by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, it seems almost certain that an arrangement will be come to with Russia for the preservation of peace."

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No. 990.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 16, 1877, 7 P.M.*

I HAVE agreed with the Russian Ambassador on the terms of a Protocol which Her Majesty's Government will be willing to accept on the condition of receiving a formal assurance in writing from the Russian Government that their forces will be demobilized, and on condition that other Governments also accept the Protocol. The Porte will not be called upon to sign.

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No. 991.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.†*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 16, 1877, 7·35 P.M.*

COPY of the Protocol referred to in my other telegram of to-day is sent to you by post to-night.

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No. 992.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 17, 1877.*

PODSARKO Commission is now investigating affair, and will report shortly.

Governor of Salonica has arrested Captain of Police in command of troops, alleged to have been engaged in the outrage.

He will be tried on the spot.

Mr. Blunt has spoken strongly to the Pasha, and I have recommended Porte to send the newly-appointed Sub-Governor to attend investigation in order to satisfy public opinion.

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* Similar telegrams were sent to Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh.
† Repeated to Embassies.



No. 992*.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 17, 1877, 10·10 A.M.*

INSTRUCTIONS contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday have been already acted upon.

Mr. Skene's report only reached me two days ago, and was immediately communicated to Porte.

Governor of Aleppo has been reprimanded for not reporting circumstance at once by telegraph, and I have told Consul he should have done so also.

Most stringent orders have been sent respecting trial and punishment of murderers.

I will press for indemnity to-day.

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No. 993.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 17, 1877.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated yesterday:—

"Montenegrin delegates telegraphed last night further answer of Turkish Government.

"For the refugees, it is said that they must confide in the generosity of the Porte.

"As to the rectification of frontier, Porte offers small portion of Zubci, and almost all Baniani; part of Piva along the river of that name, as far as Bit (error in cypher), thence to the nearest point of the Tara, and along that river to Dovolji; thence to Jablanor; thence along the present frontier to Kolaschin. But the Porte demands ultimate cession of Western Kolaschin.

"The freedom of navigation of the Boiana is granted, and the Porte is willing to treat on the *modus vivendi* of 1875.

"Prince telegraphs this afternoon in reply, declaring that, as to the refugees, if the Porte will not engage itself towards him, it must at least do so with Austria, England, and Russia. He must decline respecting Zubci; adheres, roughly speaking, to his demands for Baniani, Niesic, Duga, Piva, and Drobniak; refuses to cede any Montenegrin territory whatever, or to abandon the Kuchi; gives up claim for right bank of Moratcha, and to Spitza; accepts free navigation of Boiana under Montenegrin flag, with stipulations for the maintenance of the channel, and agrees to treat on the proposals of 1875.

"He orders his delegates to inform him whether Porte consents to these conditions, as if it does not, he will send terms of note to be presented, breaking off negotiations, and instructing his delegates to leave Constantinople with all due courtesy. In this case, he will appeal to the Great Powers, and remain on the defensive, in his present position, on the principle of the 'uti possidetis.'"

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No. 994.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 17, 1877.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs much pleased at agreement come to between your Lordship and Russian Ambassador; hopes Russian Government will agree to the condition and has no doubt that the other Powers will accept the Protocol.

The Italian Consul-General at Ragusa having, in compliance with instructions, telegraphed to Prince of Montenegro, urging him to be conciliatory in negotiations, the Prince has replied that the proposition of the neutralization of the territorial concessions of the Porte are illusory, and that the Grand Vizier gives no answer about the repatriation of Herzegovina refugees. He does not therefore intend to ask for prolongation of the armistice. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will inform the Prince of agreement between your Lordship and Russian Ambassador, and hopes he will then see advantage of concluding peace.

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No. 995.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 17, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

A MEMORANDUM of some alterations in the wording of the Draft Protocol is sent to you by post this evening.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 996.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic) *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador, on behalf of his Government, has begged me to advise the Porte to be more conciliatory to Montenegro, representing that peace with Montenegro is a question of great importance to Turkey and would pave the way to a general improvement of the situation. I have replied that I have already instructed you in this sense, but would repeat the instruction. Advise the Porte accordingly.

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No. 997.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 17, 1877.

PLEASE repeat your telegram of yesterday relating to the Protocol. May I communicate it to the Porte?

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No. 998.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 17, 1877.

A PORTION of the information required respecting sentences forwarded by messenger yesterday, but it is not complete; yet no effort has been spared to obtain it, but the greatest difficulties have been encountered.

Hope to conclude Adrianople returns next week, but cannot speak with certainty about those from Tirnova.

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No. 999.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March* 17, 1877, 10 P.M.

PERTEW EFFENDI arrived two days ago.

Questions are being discussed respecting reading of Firman in public, saluting Turkish flag, and frontier on the Drina.

Turkish Delegate awaits instructions from Constantinople.

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No. 1000

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1877, 2:15 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday you may let the Porte know confidentially what is going on about the Protocol, but you should not communicate officially with the Porte on the subject.

No official communications have yet been made by Her Majesty's Government to other Powers.

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No. 1001.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 18, 1877.

I AM privately informed that the Bank of France has agreed to advance twenty millions sterling to the Russian Government on the security of Russian Government paper.

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No. 1002.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 18, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

THE Austrian Ambassador says that the Russian Government has counselled Montenegro to give way on the question of peace, and that the Austrian Government will do so also, and he requests Her Majesty's Government to join.

Monson should give similar advice to that which the others are instructed to give in counselling moderation in demands of Montenegro.

I have instructed Mr. Jocelyn to advise Porte to be conciliatory.

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No. 1003.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 19, 11·15 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 18, 1877, 11 P.M.

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated to-day:—

Italian Government yesterday telegraphed to Prince Nicholas to the effect that he is not sufficiently conciliatory.

His Highness replied that he hopes the Italian Government will tell him what they wish him to do.

I told him this morning that the news by the last mail indicated an approaching understanding between the Great Powers, and he seems quite aware of the fact.

I see no reason to press him more urgently.

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No. 1004.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March* 19, 1877, 10·5 A.M.

I HAVE been informed confidentially that the Grand Vizier has telegraphed to the Commander-in-chief here that the Porte, rather than accord present demands of Montenegrin delegates, will resume hostilities; and his Highness has asked the Commander-in-chief how many battalions he requires to undertake a successful campaign against the Principality.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

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No. 1005.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 19, 1877.

I HAVE given a copy of the Protocol and read your Excellency's despatch No. 102 of the 16th instant, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who said that the Italian Government would give its assent to the Protocol, when officially asked for it.

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No. 1006.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1877, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul Green's telegram of to-day, repeated to you, strongly advise the Porte not to resume hostilities with Montenegro.

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No. 1007.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 19, 1877, 4·5 P.M.

HAVE you received any report of recent outrages in villages near Adrianople reported in "Times" letter of March 6? If not, desire Vice-Consul at Adrianople to make inquiries.

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No. 1008.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 19, 1877, 8·15 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY considers the draft of Protocol, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of the 16th instant, as acceptable. He regrets, however, that it contains no reference to the refugees, and he may possibly propose that a clause with respect to them should be inserted.

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No. 1009.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 19, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 196, sent by messenger, Friday, and to my telegram of the 17th, respecting the sentences passed on Bulgarians, Vice-Consul at Adrianople telegraphs following, dated to-day :—

"Governor-General made a written translation of the last list: there were 11 executed for insurrection last spring, sentenced by Adrianople Special Court in July; 2 for the Eskizagra affair by local tribunal of Adrianople in May; 13 sentences of death, 6 of various terms, by above Court. Correct list will follow."

The return, therefore, inclosed in my despatch above mentioned is incorrect, and should not be published; correct list mentioned by the Consul will be forwarded as soon as received.

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No. 1010.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

THE Turkish Parliament was opened to-day by the Sultan in person in the great hall of the Palace of Dolmabagtche.

The Imperial speech was read by the Sultan's private secretary, and I shall forward a translation of it to your Lordship by post to-morrow.

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No. 1011.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 19, 1877, 5·16 P.M.

I HAVE just communicated to Safvet Pasha confidentially information respecting Protocol.

Musurus Pasha had already reported a conversation he had had with your Lordship on the subject which has alarmed the Porte.

It fears that the Consular supervision is about to be imposed by the Powers to which it objects even more strongly than to the Commission proposed by the Conference (if it be required to recognize its character),

The Ambassador also said that it was intended if the Powers were not satisfied with



the execution of the reforms within a certain term to convene (in Europe) (*sic*) a fresh Conference, from which Turkey would be excluded, in order to devise new means of action.

Porte is anxious to know principal conditions of Protocol.

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No. 1012.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 19, 1877, 9·15 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs considers the draft Protocol inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 77 of 16th instant as acceptable.

He regrets, however, that it contains no reference to the refugees, and he may possibly propose that a clause with respect to them should be inserted.

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No. 1013.

*Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, March* 19, 1877, 10·40 P.M.

CAUCASUS impassible through snow for artillery for some time. There are two divisions other side of Caucasus. Late (news?) seem to show they are the 38th and 20th, if so there are but ninety battalions at Tiflis and on frontier.

Despatch No. 40 sent.

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No. 1014.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 20, 1877, 3·45 P.M.

THE French Ambassador has been instructed to give an absolute contradiction to the report that the Russian Government has applied for a loan to the Bank of France, or to any financiers connected with that establishment.

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No. 1015.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 20, 1877.

THE following is from Monson, dated yesterday :—

"I have received your telegram of Sunday, conveying Lord Derby's instructions, and I will co-operate with my Austrian colleague in counselling moderation. He has not as yet received any orders from his Government."

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No. 1016.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 20, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 20, 1877, 4·26 P.M.

MR. MONSON telegraphs as follows to-day :—

"Montenegrin Delegates telegraphed that they have not as yet been able to decypher Prince's telegram of 16th instant, containing His Highness's answer to the Porte's further propositions, the Turkish telegraph having,—it is believed here purposely,—utterly confused the cypher.

"The Prince asks the English and Austrian Governments to be so good as, by their

* Also to Lord A. Loftus.

Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, to communicate to the Montenegrin Delegates the substance of telegrams sent by me and my Austrian colleague on the 16th instant, containing the general terms of his reply, in order to assist in the elucidation of the original message, which is being retelegraphed."

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No. 1017.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 20, 1877, 4·27 P.M.*

I COULD not see Count Andrassy this morning; but I learnt from Baron Calice that the Memorandum of alterations in Protocol adopted on 17th instant had been received from Count Beust, and at his request I communicated to him confidentially the inclosure in your Lordship's despatch of that date to be compared with it.

He appeared very anxious to learn whether the Russian Government had accepted the Protocol, and your Lordship's conditions attached to its signature by your Lordship; but I could only express an opinion that it was reasonable to suppose that Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatiew expected that they will do so.

I may state, however, in strict confidence, that I suspect from observations made to me by the Emperor and by Count Andrassy that they entertain doubts as to Russia being disposed to engage in writing to disarm, and as to expediency of insisting on her giving such an engagement.

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No. 1018.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March 20, 1877, 8 P.M.*

THE Sultan's Firman was presented to-day to Prince Milan in presence of all the Ministers, and has given satisfaction.

Pertew Effendi returns to Constantinople.

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No. 1019.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

YOU are authorized to communicate to Montenegrin Delegates telegram from Mr. Monson dated 16th instant, giving substance of Prince's instructions to Delegates, which was repeated to you on the 17th instant.

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No. 1020.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1877, 3·45 P.M.*

SEND following to Mr. Monson:—

"Mr. Jocelyn has been authorized to communicate to Montenegrin Delegates your telegram of the 16th instant, addressed to Sir A. Buchanan."

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No. 1021.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1877, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 16th instant, the Turkish Ambassador must have misunderstood me if he reported that I had stated that Russia would not be satisfied even if the conditions in question were complied with. I never made any such statement.

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No. 1022.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1877.*

LIST of sentences pronounced by Adrianople Tribunals will be sent by post Friday.

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No. 1023.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 21, 1877, 5 P.M.*

MONSON telegraphs Montenegrin Delegates telegraphed last night that in view of the expiration of the armistice the Porte has ordered the Turkish Commanders to remain on the defensive. Prince Nicholas has replied this morning instructing Delegates to inform Safvet Pasha that his troops have also strict orders to remain on the defensive.

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No. 1024.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1877.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th I have received following from Vice-Consul at Adrianople:—

"Heard of the alleged outrages ten hours distant from here last week, and I am making every inquiry. Spoken twice to Governor-General on the subject. He ignored the affair both times. Italian Consul-General says that disturbances have taken place of little importance. Will write."

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No. 1025.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21, 11·45 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1877, 8 A.M.*

I COMMUNICATED instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of 19th instant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who stated that the Porte had already given strict orders to military commanders on Montenegrin frontier to remain on the defensive.

There appears to be no intention at present at least of resuming hostilities.

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No. 1026.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, March 21, 1877, 8·30 A.M.*

I HAVE learnt from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, since forwarding my previous telegram of this day, that he approves of the alterations adopted on 17th instant in draft

No. 4 of the Protocol; but I think that he will propose that some reference should be made in paragraph 6 to the reforms accepted by the Porte in its note of February of last year, before taking note of the declaration of its resolution to apply reforms enumerated in the paragraph.

He said that the engagements of the Porte respecting the refugees might be recorded in this way without specially quoting them.

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No. 1027.

*Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Teheran, March 22, 1877.*

THE Governor of Asterabad reports by telegraph that as the result of communications which had passed between General Lomakin and their Chiefs, the Venikeh Turkomans of Kizlervad and Bamehboorneh had submitted to Russia; the other Chiefs of the Akhal were about to tender their allegiance also to that Power. General Lomakin was sending an expedition to Kizlervad and Bamehboormeh, and intended to erect forts there. He had called upon the Yemoot tribe to furnish 3,000 camels and 200 horsemen, and threatened, if they were refused, to take them by force, as on a former occasion. The Yemoot Chiefs were consequently making arrangements to comply with this requisition. Communicated to Viceroy.

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No. 1028.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1877, 2·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st, Vice-Consul Dupuis should go or send some trustworthy person to ascertain the truth respecting the reported outrages.

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No. 1029.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1877, 8 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador having proposed some further alterations which his Government desired made in the Protocol, I told him and General Ignatiew yesterday that it seemed inexpedient to discuss verbal amendments until an understanding had been arrived at on the question of demobilization. As that was the inducement held out to Her Majesty's Government to sign the Protocol, and the assurance of it was our justification for so doing, we must be able to lay before Parliament evidence that our object had been secured.

Both the Ambassadors opposed giving an assurance, stating that Turkey was not pledged to disarm; war continued between Turkey and Montenegro, and if the latter were attacked and invaded Russia would be bound in honour to intertere; and thirdly, that, as a question of dignity, it was unsuitable that Russia should be called upon to disarm first.

In reply to an inquiry as to the conditions on which Russian Government would undertake to demobilize, the Ambassadors expressed the opinion, although not authorized to say so officially, that the Emperor would disarm on the following conditions:—

1. That the Porte should take the initiative.
2. That peace should be concluded with Montenegro.
3. That the Turkish reforms should be seriously taken in hand.

Demobilization would be stopped at once in the event of fresh massacres of Christians.

I said that the language of the Russian Ambassador was less reassuring than on previous occasions, but for the present I would content myself by referring their observations to my colleagues.

I have told the above to Count Beust to-day, and you may also confidentially inform Count Andrassy.

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No. 1030.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 22, 1877.*

ARMISTICE with Montenegro prolonged till 13th April. Have informed Consul Green.

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No. 1031.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 22, 1877, 11·40 P.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Delegates communicated to the Foreign Minister yesterday Prince of Montenegro's final demand for the cession of Kuci and Nichsich.

Porte, however, still refuses and will refer question first to a Ministerial Council and afterwards to the Chambers.

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No. 1032.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 23, 1877, 9 A.M.*

MONSON reports that Prince Nicholas accepted this morning a proposal received last night by telegraph from the Grand Vizier to prolong the armistice till the 13th of April exclusive.

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No. 1033.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 23, 1877, 3·15 P.M.*

I HAVE read to the Minister for Foreign Affairs confidentially a memorandum of the substance of your telegram of yesterday explaining the present position of the negotiations with Russia which Count Beust had not reported quite clearly.

His Excellency said that he intends telegraphing to Count Beust to-day; that on the question of disarmament his opinion has never been asked, and he does not, therefore, feel called upon to express one. He has always doubted, however, Russia giving such an assurance as Her Majesty's Government ask for.

With respect to the draft of a Protocol with the text of which he is acquainted with, he could accept it, but he approved of an amendment proposed by Russia by which the Porte's engagements with respect to Bosnia and the Herzegovina would be referred to. He would, therefore, suggest that no reforms should be enumerated, but that an expectation should be expressed in general terms that the Porte would carry out the reforms accepted by its note of February o last year, and also those promised by the Circular of Safvet Pasha.

His object is that the engagement of the Porte respecting the refugees should be maintained, and he said that if his suggestion is not adopted he would be obliged to call on the Porte to reimburse Austria for the sum expended on their maintenance, with which he could assist them to re-establish themselves in their homes, and if the Porte refused, Austria would decline to continue to exercise any control over them.

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No. 1034.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23, 6·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Rome, March 23, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

I HAVE acquainted the Minister for Foreign Affairs confidentially with the substance of your Lordship's conversation with Count Schouvaloff and General Ignatieff. His

Excellency strongly condemns the course now pursued by Russia, which confirms his misgivings respecting difficulties raised by Montenegro in peace negotiations. He considers the pretension that Turkey should be first to disarm quite untenable, and your Lordship's language perfectly correct.

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No. 1035.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24, 12·3 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 24, 1877, 11·30 A.M.*

FOLLOWING received this morning from Consul at Erzeroum, dated 14th instant:—

"175 Redifs on way to Erzeroom stopped at Gelintpatek, Kehlûbar, and Hosberick, in district of Banes, have desecrated church, maltreated priest, beat Christians, outraged women, three violated by about sixty men were left dying. Authorities refuse protection. Villages were deserted, Christians fearing massacre having fled, military authorities here supine, Christians begin to suffer severely, dread opening their shops, acts of oppression and cruelty occur daily.

"I brought the above immediately to the knowledge of Foreign Minister, who begged me to assure your Lordship that no effort shall be spared to discover and punish with all rigour perpetrators. His Excellency telegraphs in this sense to Governor-General of the Province; have given the name of the official commanding the offenders."

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No. 1036.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 24, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*

INFORM Mr. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, that he is to proceed to Adrianople as soon as possible to act temporarily as Consul there. He will be authorized to charge the journey of himself and family, and house-rent will be allowed him at Adrianople, the amount of which he will report as soon after his arrival as possible.

Instructions will be sent to him at Adrianople.

Inform Mr. Dupuis.

If the services of Mr. Barker, late Acting Consul in Crete, are still available, he may proceed to Salonica and take charge of the Consulate.

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No. 1037.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 24, 1877, 4 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government see no objection in principle to mention in Protocol of Turkish note of February of last year, and will consider this when the words to be used are formally communicated. At present drafting of Protocol has been suspended pending question of demobilization.

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No. 1038.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 24, 1877.*

M. MUSURUS has informed the Porte that your Lordship had told him that, owing to difficulties having arisen with regard to the conditions of the Protocol, its conclusion had been dropped for the present, and that consequently Turkey had better prepare for (war and?) take steps to complete her military preparations.

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No. 1039.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 24, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, respecting outrages reported by Consul at Erzeroom, I approve of your having made representations to the Porte on the subject.

You will strongly urge the prompt punishment of the offenders. The continuance of such acts of fanaticism and cruelty are a disgrace to the Turkish Government, and arouse the just indignation of Europe.

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No. 1040.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25, 1877, 1 A.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, Grand Vizier has informed me yesterday that he has telegraphed to both the civil and military Governors of province to investigate reported outrage, and to punish most severely the perpetrators.

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No. 1041.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25, 1877, 10·20 A.M.*

I HAVE executed your instructions respecting the Adrianople Consulate. Mr. Dupuis now absent at the scene of the recent outrage. Under present circumstances it appears very desirable to have an efficient officer at Salonica.

Montenegro Delegates informed me that in to-day's interview Foreign Minister again refused the cession of demanded territory. They will await the arrival of the note from Prince of Montenegro directing them to break off negotiation and to return. This will involve delay of ten days, during which something might still be done.

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No. 1042.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 25, 1877.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrived here to-day and leaves the day after to-morrow for St. Petersburgh. He has just called upon me, and spoke confidentially as to a form being found of demobilization which will satisfy Her Majesty's Government without compromising the dignity of Russia, or diminishing the effect on the Porte of the Russian armaments. He says he has convinced Count Andrassy the present working of the Protocol includes the promises of the Porte respecting refugees.

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No. 1043.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 25, 1877.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated to-day:—

For the Foreign Office.

With reference to my despatch No. 69 of the 14th instant, Prince Nicholas informed me to-day that all the Herzegovina Chiefs and important men, to the number of more than 100, are now in Cettigné, in compliance with his summons. His Highness says that he fears that the Porte does not reflect that the board of the refugees is excessive; that the spring is advancing rapidly, and that, unless they are returned to their homes by the end

of April, it will be useless for them to sow their crops for this year's harvest, and the Porte will thus be saddled with the support of an idle population until next year.

The Prince has perfected his arrangements with the Chiefs, and undertakes that if the Porte will agree to his co-operation and accept his moral and material assistance, the refugees shall be reinstated in their homes in thirty days.

His Highness would furnish the means of transport and aid in rebuilding the houses, &c.

He asks Her Majesty's Government to join with Austria in pressing this important matter upon the serious consideration of the Porte.

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No. 1044.

*Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March 25, 1877.*

SERVIAN Foreign Minister informs me that Porte makes difficulties respecting the evacuation of the island on the Drina, which before the war belonged to Servia, and requests the good offices of Her Majesty's Government with the view to urge the Porte not to contravene the *status quo ante*.

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No. 1045.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, contradict emphatically the statement reported by Musurus Pasha to have been made by me.

I never gave any such advice as that attributed to me. Communications respecting the Protocol are still being exchanged.

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No. 1046.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 3:30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 25th instant I proposed to send Mr. Barker to act at Salonica during Mr. Blunt's absence.

Report if his services are available, and, if not, whom you would recommend.

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No. 1047.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 3:50 P.M.*

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. St. John :—

"Servian Foreign Minister informs me that Porte makes difficulties respecting the evacuation of the Island on the Drina which before the war belonged to Servia, and requests the good offices of Her Majesty's Government with the view to urge the Porte not to contravene the *status quo ante*."

You may use your good offices in the matter.

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No. 1048.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26, 4:30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 26, 1877, 12:17 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul Calvert dated yesterday :—

"Disregard any report that may reach you of burning of a Bulgarian village and massacre of inhabitants. It is quite untrue."

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No. 1049.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 4:30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Munson yesterday :—

"With reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 11th instant, Prince Nicholas informed me to-day that all the Herzegovina Chiefs and important men, to the number of more than 100, are now in Cettigné in compliance with his summons. His Highness says that he fears that the Porte does not reflect that the board of the refugees is excessive; that the spring is advancing rapidly; and that, unless they are returned to their homes by the end of April, it will be useless for them to sow their crops for this year's harvest, and the Porte will thus be saddled with the support of an idle population until next year. The Prince has perfected his arrangements with the Chiefs, and undertakes that if the Porte will agree to his co-operation and accept his moral and material assistance, the refugees shall be reinstated in their homes in thirty days.

"His Highness would furnish the means of transport, and aid in rebuilding the houses, &c.

"He asks Her Majesty's Government to join with Austria in pressing this important matter upon the serious consideration of the Porte."

I have to instruct you to join with your Austrian colleague in pressing on the Porte the expediency of coming to an arrangement as to the refugees.

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No. 1050.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. St. John.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 26, 1877, 4:40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday's date, I have instructed Mr. Jocelyn to use his good offices in the matter of the evacuation of the island on the Drina.

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No. 1051.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26, 5:30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 26, 1877, 3 P.M.*

I SAW Prince Gortchakow this morning. His Highness' language was not encouraging. He said he had used all his influence to further peace negotiations with Montenegro, but the Porte rendered it impossible by treating Montenegro as a vassal.

He stated that Russia could not demobilize till peace was concluded with Montenegro, and spoke with animation of Russia having reached the extreme limit of concession.

Speedy conclusion of peace with Montenegro is of essential importance.

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No. 1052.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Vienna, March 26, 1877.*

THE evening papers state that General Ignatiew will go by Berlin to St. Petersburgh.

The Emperor told me to-day that he will not receive him till to-morrow, and after asking me whether negotiations were still going on between London and St. Petersburgh, His Majesty expressed a hope that Her Majesty's Government would not insist upon receiving from Russia a formal engagement to disarm should she continue unwilling to give one, as she might thus be unable to avoid war, whereas he believes her to be earnestly desirous of peace; and if she should, contrary to his expectations and her professions, commence hostilities after the signature of the Protocol, the situation would not, in His Majesty's opinion, be worse than if she had declared war before there had been a question of a Protocol.

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No. 1053.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877, 8 A.M.

TELEGRAPH to Consular Officers throughout Turkish dominions to be especially careful in investigating and reporting any cases of disturbances or outrages that may come to their knowledge, and authorize them to charge in their public accounts the expense of visiting any places where such occurrences are reported to have taken place.

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No. 1054.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 27, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 26, 11·50 P.M.

IN consequence of the telegram of Musurus Pasha of last Friday, orders were sent to-day to all the provinces to call out the third ban of the reserve and the entire fleet has received directions to proceed to the Upper Bosphorus.

I have just received your Lordship's emphatic contradiction of Musurus' report, and will communicate it to the Grand Vizier early to-morrow morning.

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No. 1055.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 27, 2·30 P.M.)

Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 27, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

I HAVE been pressing Porte for some time to withdraw their troops from the Drina Island and from Yavor, and Minister for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that orders had been sent to military commanders to evacuate both these positions.

Sent to Belgrade.

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No. 1056.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 27, 2·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 27, 1877, 12·40 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople having returned from scene of late outrages telegraps following, dated yesterday:—

"On the 24th February, a gang of seven Turks visited Bektavry and subjected seven of the principal men to shameful treatment by beating them with sticks and cutting three with knives (one badly), and (extort)ed (?) from them various sums of money. Details will follow."

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No. 1057.

*Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 27.)

*Salonica, March* 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAPHIC orders received here last night from the Minister of War to call out, without loss of time, all the Mustahfis battalions in territorial jurisdiction of 3rd army corps of Monastir. Each company of every battalion is to have a complement of 200 men.

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No. 1058.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 27 4·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 27, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum, dated 24th instant:—

"Turkish bands crossed Russian frontier, successfully robbed number of animals.

"Russian Commander of forces informed Turkish authorities here, through Russian Consul, yesterday, that stolen property, if not restored in forty-eight hours, will make reprisals.

"Commander-in-chief's despatch not so hostile as reported, but firm.

"Governor-General has promised to enforce action. Russian Consul has requested Commander-in-chief to be patient."

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No. 1059.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877, 3·40 P.M.

ASCERTAIN whether it is true that arms have recently been distributed to the Mussulman population in the Turkish provinces.

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No. 1060.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877, 5 P.M.

COMMUNICATE following to Monson:—

"I have sent following to Mr. Jocelyn:—

"'I have to instruct you to join with your Austrian colleague in pressing on the Porte the expediency of coming to an arrangement as to the refugees.'"

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No. 1061.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877, 7·16 P.M.

THE Russian Government have proposed that the drafting of a Protocol should be proceeded with, and urge that its signature should not be delayed. They agree that before its signature, the Russian Ambassador should make a declaration in the name of his Government, and leave with me a Memorandum, to be used publicly if necessary, to the effect that if the Porte accepts the advice of the Powers, and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and to take in hand seriously the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, the Sultan may send a special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of disarmament, to which disarmament the Emperor of Russia will also on his side consent.

Count Schouvaloff added a proviso that if a recommencement of massacres took place similar to those in Bulgaria, then the engagement on the part of Russia to demobilize would no longer hold good.

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No. 1062.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1877, 7·60 P.M.

YOU will make it clearly understood to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs that I have never given any advice of the kind attributed to me by Musurus Pasha.

We continue to negotiate for a pacific solution, and consider it most essential that Turkey should maintain a prudent and conciliatory attitude.

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No. 1063.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 27, 1877.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Monson :—

"To Her Majesty's Government.

"Prince Nicholas received on the 25th instant news that the Porte would not accede to his demands of the 16th as to the frontier, and that as to the navigation of the Boiana, the channel must be put and kept in order by Montenegro.

"The telegram made no mention of refugee question, respecting which His Highness telegraphed again for information.

"To-day another unintelligible telegram has been received from Constantinople. The conviction gains ground here that the despatches are intentionally mutilated."

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No. 1064.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 27, 1877.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW had an audience of the Emperor to-day, and after dining at the Palace will leave for Berlin.

He held the same language to me this morning as on Sunday, but I learn from others that he also speaks of war being unavoidable if Her Majesty's Government insist on receiving the engagement they have asked for, and Count Andrassy is believed by some of my colleagues to consider a satisfactory settlement as far from certain.

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No. 1065.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28, noon.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 28, 1877, 1 A.M.*

IT is my duty to inform your Lordship that the present crisis here is one of serious gravity. I am privately informed that if the condition for demobilization is maintained as proposed by Her Majesty's Government war is certain. Emperor of Russia regards it as one of humiliation, and will prefer war to its acceptance.

Can no form be found for giving confidential assurances which will meet requirements without signed document? I am told that the Emperor is losing patience, and that for the last few days he has assumed a determined (?) tone. Unless difficulty as regards the demobilization can be solved and the Protocol signed it is my conviction that the Russian army will cross the Pruth in about three weeks. Dangers of such an event to the peace of Europe are too apparent, and every attempt should be made to avert them. Public opinion here and at Moscow is becoming excited. Unless, therefore, satisfactory solution can be speedily arrived at war will be inevitable.

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No. 1066.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28, 2 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 28, 1877, 10 A.M.*

IN consequence of the alarm which prevailed two days ago caused by Musurus' telegram, Moukhtar Pasha was yesterday hurried off to his post at Erzeroum.

Reouf, Minister of Marine, told me confidentially last night that he is endeavouring to persuade his colleagues to come to an arrangement with the Montenegrin delegates.

This had been impossible during the presence of Governor of Erzeroum, and it is very desirable that they should not be allowed to leave Constantinople, as an understanding appears to be less hopeless than before.



His Excellency seems to be advising that a secret understanding should be come to (with) Prince of Montenegro, as to future cession of Nichsich, Turkey retaining it for the present to avoid arousing the susceptibilities of national party.

I have advised delegates not to hurry their departure.

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No. 1067.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28, 2:30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 28, 1877, 10:20 A.M.*

BARKER will leave Crete for Salonica on the 2nd of April. Blunt had better await his arrival.

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No. 1068.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 28, 1877, 3 P.M.*

WITH reference to Vice-Consul Dupuis' telegram repeated by you yesterday, what steps have been taken to punish the offenders in the case of outrages at Bektaory?

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No. 1069.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, March 28, 1877.*

I HAVE had a conversation this morning with Minister for Foreign Affairs on the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and I learnt from him that he had expressed serious misgivings to General Ignatiew as to danger of leaving the question of disarmament to be treated at St. Petersburgh by an Envoy from Turkey, as he fears that in such negotiation a difficulty would be raised as to initiative, which might lead to war.

He evidently would prefer an arrangement by which the Protocol should be signed on understanding that Russia should immediately afterwards announce by a despatch that she would disarm as soon as she was satisfied that the Porte is prepared to accept advice of Powers, and to carry out the reforms mentioned in the Protocol.

He said that he would make no proposal, and was ready to accept any arrangement which might be come to between England and Russia, but he would acquaint Count Beust with his opinion that in the interest of peace as little as possible should be allowed to depend on the action of the Porte.

He also evidently hopes that peace of Europe will not be subservient to arrangements between Porte and Montenegro, and he is of opinion that an obligation on the part of the former to keep open channel of the Boiana, might be a constant cause of hostilities between them.

He will, I think, inform Prince Nicholas that General Ignatiew has told the Turkish Ambassador that the Porte is justified in refusing to cede Nichsich to Montenegro, and that Prince Nicholas ought to be satisfied if he can retain possession of Skuptchi. I do not believe that he has quite given up his wish that reference should be made in the Protocol to the Turkish note of February of last year.

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No. 1070.

*Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Rome, March 28, 1877.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs authorizes me to say that if a Protocol is signed on the conditions mentioned in your Lordship's telegram to Lord A. Loftus of yesterday's

date, the Italian Government will be ready, should Her Majesty's Government desire it, to urge the Porte to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to treat the question of disarmament.

His Excellency hinted that they might possibly be disposed to send their Minister to Constantinople for this purpose.

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No. 1071.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1877, 10·15 A.M.

HER Majesty's Government wish you to proceed to Constantinople as Special Ambassador to take charge of the Embassy during the absence of the Ambassador.

You will retain your salary, which will be made up to 8,000*l.* a-year during your stay at Constantinople, and your travelling expenses and any actual expenses of removal will be allowed.

If you accept, let me know how soon you can be in England on your way out, and you should telegraph to Sir J. Walsham that he is required to return to Madrid to take charge.

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No. 1072.

*Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 29, 2·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March* 29, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS have been received from Porte to hasten military preparations. Officers are to join their regiments and the Mustafiz to be called out.

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No. 1073.

*Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 29, 2·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March* 29, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

No arms have been distributed to the Turkish population since last year.

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No. 1074.

*Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, March* 29, 1877.

I ACCEPT offer of Her Majesty's Government, and trust that I may justify the confidence they have placed in me. I have telegraphed to Walsham to come here immediately, and will be ready to leave for England at once.

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No. 1075.

*Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, March* 29, 1877.

THE Sultan has telegraphed to the Viceroy that the threatening aspect of affairs makes him desirous to know, in the event of war, to what extent and in what manner Egypt could assist Turkey.

My advice being asked, I answered exactly in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 16, Confidential, of the 15th ultimo.

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No. 1076.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 29, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 29, 1877.

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople reports that all the miscreants concerned in Bektidjis affair have been secured for trial, except one, who escaped. Ringleader confessed, but became insane, and is now confined at Constantinople.

I have directed Vice-Consul to proceed to other villages mentioned in "Times" letter, and to report.

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No. 1077.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 30, 1877, 10 A.M.

I APPROVE your suggestion that Mr. Blunt should remain at Salonica until Mr. Barker arrives there.

Instruct him accordingly.

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No. 1078.

*Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Madrid, March* 30, 1877.

UNLESS you wish me to see King and Foreign Minister, who do not arrive here before 4th or 5th April, I could leave Madrid on Monday or Tuesday next, and be in London on Saturday morning.

Unless my departure is very urgent, it would be difficult to leave before, as all business is suspended here until Monday.

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No. 1079.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 30, 1877.

REPLIES received from principal Consulates that arms have not been distributed to Mahomedan population. At Scutari and at Erzeroum Mussulmans are habitually armed; at the former place some Christian mountaineers have received rifles.

The calling out of the last reserves has probably given rise to the report of a general arming.

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No. 1080.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 8·15 A.M.

I QUITE approve your proposal to leave Madrid on Monday or Tuesday.

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No. 1081.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.*

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 12·50 P.M.

IT has been thought necessary that England should be represented by some one holding the rank of Ambassador at Constantinople.

Mr. Layard has accordingly been selected to hold this office temporarily, and will proceed to Constantinople as soon as possible after coming to England to receive his instructions. Communicate this to the Porte, and express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the choice will be agreeable to the Sultan.

Your conduct in charge of the Embassy has given complete satisfaction and is entirely approved. I shall mention this to Musurus Pasha.

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No. 1082.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 1 P.M.

I HAVE agreed with Count Schouvaloff as to the terms of the Protocol.

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No. 1083.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 1·50 P.M.

THE following is a translation of the draft of Declaration to be made to me by the Russian Ambassador before the signature of the Protocol :—

If peace with Montenegro is concluded, and the Porte accepts the advice of Europe and shows itself ready to replace its forces on a peace footing, and to undertake seriously the reforms mentioned in the Protocol, let the Porte send to St. Petersburgh a Special Envoy to treat of disarmament, to which His Majesty the Emperor will consent also on his side.

If massacres such as those which have occurred in Bulgaria took place, that would necessarily put a stop to the measures of demobilization.

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No. 1084.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 3 P.M.

THE following is the draft of the Declaration to be made by me to the Russian Ambassador before the signature of the Protocol :—

"Inasmuch as it is solely in the interests of European peace that Her Majesty's Government have consented to sign the Protocol proposed by that of Russia, it is understood beforehand that, in the event of the object proposed not being attained, viz., reciprocal disarmament on the part of Russia and Turkey, and peace between them, the Protocol in question shall be regarded as null and void."

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* Repeated to other Embassies.



No. 1085.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 31, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 31, 1877, 2·20 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me with satisfaction this morning that everything had been arranged between your Lordship and the Russian Ambassador, and that Protocol would probably be signed to-day. He urgently requests your Lordship to transmit by telegraph Protocol in full, with instructions to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to avoid unnecessary delay in presenting it to the Porte. He is very anxious to receive Porte's answer before the 13th April (N. S.), he tells me—for what reasons I know not.

His Highness' intelligence yesterday from Constantinople unsatisfactory. Great agitation in consequence of the telegram from Musurus, stating that war was imminent; increased armaments preparing by sea and land.

Prince Gortchakow is much disquieted about peace negotiations with Montenegro. Without their successful conclusion no pacific solution will be possible. Russia will not abandon Montenegro.

General Ignatiew arrived last night.

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No. 1086.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1877, 6 P.M.

THE Protocol, as agreed to by Count Schouvaloff and myself and signed this afternoon, is in the same words as draft No. 4 sent to you with these alterations :—

In first paragraph "The Powers which have 'entrepris en commun,' the pacification, &c."

At end of first paragraph add the words "que la Porte a acceptées sauf à les appliquer elle-même."

In second paragraph omit the words "and Montenegro."

Third paragraph begins "'Quant au Monténégro,' the Powers consider, &c."

Sixth paragraph runs "They take act specially of the Circular of the Porte of February 16, 1876, and of the declarations made by the Ottoman Government during the Conference and afterwards 'par l'entremise' of its Representatives."

The enumeration of the reforms is omitted. The rest of the Protocol stands exactly as in the text of draft 4, the other Russian amendments being abandoned.

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No. 1087.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 31, 1877.

FOLLOWING is from Monson dated to-day :—

"For Lord Derby.

"Prince Nicholas has received intelligence this morning from number of the newspapers of the signature of the Protocol by the Great Powers. His Highness gives me to understand that in consequence he will not yet recall his Delegates from Constantinople, as he was on the point of doing.

"My Austrian colleague informs me very confidentially that General Ignatiew has told Turkish Ambassador at Vienna that the retention of Nichsich is a point of honour for Turkey, at the same time stating to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Douga should be given to Montenegro! This declaration has much irritated His Highness, as being both unintelligible as rectification of the frontier, and very prejudicial to a satisfactory solution of the negotiations."

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* Repeated to other Embassies.

No. 1088.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.*—(*Received March* 31, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 31, 1877, 4·40 P.M.

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh was yesterday informed by Lord A. Loftus that Protocol will shortly be signed in London, but that Russia will not disarm unless peace be concluded with Montenegro, and that if hostilities are renewed she will make common cause with the Principality.